

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 15th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.

I would like to start this issue of the President's News Digest by addressing the important subject of institutional accreditation.



Last week, the HEC met and they confirmed that the three universities that were part of the pilot study have achieved accreditation and affirmed that all remaining universities will need to go through the same process. This is good news for us as we have been working on the preparation of accreditation for the last eighteen months. The starting point will be submitting the accreditation application form. According to the accreditation handbook, we need to submit an accreditation application which will be scrutinised by the HEC within 4 weeks. If we pass the scrutinisation process, they will write to us to inform us about a panel visit and to submit the self-evaluation report and all supporting materials which will be due 4 weeks before the accreditation visit.



On the visit day, they will ask for additional documentation and they have provided us in appendix A of the accreditation handbook with all the documents that will be needed on the days of the visit. Please note that the SER and all supporting materials will be submitted in English. Tania circulated again the previously disseminated accreditation handbook in both Arabic and English. All staff, academic and admin, should read the accreditation handbook in order to become familiar with the requirements.

There are 3 important areas that we need to pass which are: Governance, Administration and Management, and Teaching and Learning and Assessment. I am also sure that the panel will put a lot of emphasis on students' support. Please refer to the accreditation handbook to look at the areas, standards and key indicators that are required for accreditation purposes. The visiting panel will attend classes and observe the quality of teaching and learning. It is therefore vital to have top quality teaching material, excellent assessed work, and up to date course portfolios including course specifications.

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They will be judging the quality of the delivery of teaching and how students are interacting with the teaching staff and each other in classes. Exciting and relevant teaching with clear weekly plans are essential to meet their requirements. The learning outcomes should be clearly stated and the students should be fully aware of what they are going to achieve. Learning resources should be clearly identified including Moodle, library resources and teaching material references. The visiting panel will adopt a students centered approach and most of their questions will be related to how students are achieving learning outcomes and how we are supporting them. The following list summarises some important issues that need to be done properly:



1. Course portfolios, including course specification, syllabus, weekly study plans, relevant and up to date references and books.
2. Annual Programme Reviews Reports should be clearly drafted with clear action plans
3. University catalogue, students' handbook and program handbooks are up to date and clearly communicated to students whether they are printed or they are available on the web site.
4. The website should be kept up to date and it will be scrutinised at the accreditation application stage
5. All surveys are conducted and analysed and clear action plans are developed and followed to close the cycle
6. All committees are meeting according to plans with clear agendas, minutes and actions
7. All class observations are conducted and analysed and action plans are developed and followed
8. All staff recruitment employments are transparent and follow our staff recruitment policies and procedures
9. Students should be at the heart of all what we do and they should be supported and their voice is heard.
10. Strict quality assurance checks are in place in order to ensure that we are delivering work to the highest standards.
11. The areas of research, community engagement, and facilities should all be monitored and clear reports are produced about their performance.

As you are all aware, universities which do not achieve accreditation will not be able to operate in Bahrain. It is therefore vital for our long term existence and sustainability to achieve accreditation. This is a collective effort and we should all be contributing to the success of this very important activity. The accreditation group will intensify its efforts over the next couple of weeks in order to finalise the accreditation application and the self-evaluation report and supporting materials that need to be submitted to the HEC in due course.



Last week, the University witnessed another milestone in our area of internationalization. I would like to congratulate staff and students on the historical occasion of signing the memorandum of cooperation with Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK. The signing ceremony which took place on 9 February 2017 reflects the professionalism and high quality and standards we embrace in the University.



The ceremony was held under the patronage of the Secretary General of the HEC, and in the presence of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, HE the British Ambassador to Bahrain, the Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities, Director of British Council, President and Vice Chancellor and Pro Vice Chancellor of Cardiff Met, and many important dignitaries. Under this MOC, ASU will deliver two Cardiff Met bachelor programmes in Management and Business Studies and Accounting and Finance. The graduates will receive their degrees from Cardiff Met. This is a golden opportunity for students to get a degree from a British University while saving on costs and not being away from family and friends. I would like to thank all staff and students who contributed to the success of this event, especially Ms Tania Kashou for the precise coordination and excellent management of the event and to Ms Ruqaya Mohsin for being an excellent MC.



Last week the President attended a conference in Oman hosted by Gulf College titled “Handling the global challenges for Middle East universities” and organized by ARELEN, Cardiff Metropolitan University and the Association of Arab Universities and facilitated by David Lock, Chief Executive of the Magna Charta. Presentations were made by the Chief Executive of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, Deputy President of University of Bologna, President and Pro Vice Chancellor of Cardiff Met, and Dean of Gulf College.

It appears that most universities in the Arab World are facing similar issues related to accreditation, use of traditional methods of teaching, lack of research, recruitment and retention of talented staff, the students’ voice, quality assurance, use of technology, entrepreneurship and innovation, and capacity creation.

On 5 February, the Deanship of Students Affairs organised an orientation day for our new students. It is our duty to guide our students as they embark on a new learning experience. Let's make them feel welcome and support them and go the extra mile to provide them with pleasant learning experiences. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all colleagues and students council who helped with this event, especially the VP Academic Affairs, Dean of Students Affairs and most importantly Mr Mohammed Al Najjar.



On 10 February, our third annual staff and students camping day was successfully organised by the Marketing and PR team with some help from our student council and Deanship of Students Affairs. It was an enjoyable day for all of us and especially our colleagues' families and kids in particular. This type of activity will definitely help us in bonding and understanding each other's cultures. It was a pleasure to see the Chairman of the board of Trustees and his family attending this event. I would like to thank the Director of Marketing and PR and her team and the Students Council and all colleagues who helped in organizing this enjoyable event.



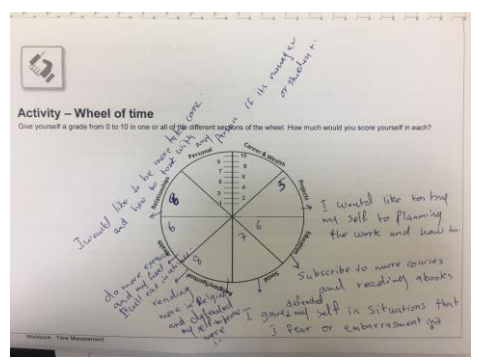
Last week, Dr Mohammed Yousif's position as Vice President for Administration, Finance and Community Engagement was confirmed by the HEC Council. Many congratulations to Dr Mohamed and let's wish him well in undertaking this important role.

Next week, I will be attending the Executive Board of the Association of Arab Universities in the UAE and then visit Asyout University to chair a session on their conference on quality assurance and to explore opportunities for collaboration.

I would like to conclude this edition of the Newsletter by reminding our colleagues to keep their course portfolios up to date and to ensure the delivery of exciting teaching to our students. Auditing of these course portfolios have already started by the QAAC Centre and the Vice Deans of the colleges. Please ensure that your course portfolios are of top quality and in accordance with the template we produced.

**TIME MANAGEMENT**

The Training Centre held a 2 day course titled 'Time Management' on 24 and 25 January 2017. Managing time may sound easy, but the fact is that it can be quite challenging and the main challenge we all face when it comes to managing our time is simply taking control of it. Nowadays we are swamped with distraction in our workplace, at home and even due to some old habits we have. This leaves us under the control of events, people and circumstances around us. The programmes' main purpose was to introduce several concepts and techniques to help its attendees to regain control of their time and plan for our success. The attendees participated in activities such as the wheel of time, etc to help them prioritise their personal and professional goal and needs.



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**ASU LIBRARY'S PARTICIPATION IN CAIRO INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR**

ASU library has participated in the Cairo International Book Fair which ran from 26 January till 10 February 2017. Dr. Ammar Jalamneh, Director of the Library, visited Egypt last week to purchase books that satisfy the colleges' needs for the current semester from the book fair. Publishers from all over the world participated in this international book fair which gave the library management the opportunity to collect the latest information resources in all subjects of interest to ASU colleges.





## ORIENTATION DAY FOR THE NEWLY REGISTERED STUDENTS FOR 2ND SEMESTER OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017

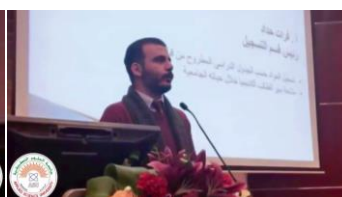
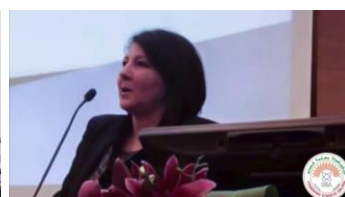
The Deanship of Student Affairs organised an orientation day on 5 February 2017, for the newly enrolled students for the second semester of the academic year 2016-2017.

The event was set into two parts; the first part was in Abdulla Nass Hall where Dr Assem Al-Hajj, VP Academic Affairs and Development, Dr Faiza Zitouni, Dean of Students Affairs and Dr Isa Al-Khayat, Dean of Admission and Registration presented welcoming speeches and highlighted some important points that students need to consider when first joining the University.

In addition, Mr Mohamed Najjar, Manager of Students' Services Office and Mr Furat Haddad, Head of Registration Department explained into more details important issues related to ASU' students including; process, procedures, bylaws, participation in events and the importance extra-curricular activities.

The second part consisted of a visit to the Colleges, and a tour around the University, enabling the new students to find out more about their colleges and the facilities at ASU. The College Deans, Vice Deans and members of staff explained to students about academic and programme related issues.

All members of Students' Council participated in this event and played a significant role during the tour around the University. The tour allowed the new students to meet other fellow students and their college representatives.



## PROF DARWISH DELIVERED A SPEECH DURING THE "FOURTH GULF FORUM FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT"

Prof Saad Darwish, President's Advisor for Special Projects delivered a speech during the "Fourth Gulf Forum for Human Resources Development"; which took place on 8 & 9 February 2017 at Sofitel Hotel. The speech was about the methods used to measure employee's loyalty. It covered good examples that help companies in measuring loyalty as an important issue that need to be addressed at top management's levels to decrease turnover. In the photo: Mr Khalid AlEeid, Mr. Sulaiman Farman and Sameera Baba and other speakers of the conference.





## DR NAZMI ABU LIBDEH'S PAPER SELECTED FOR BEST PAPER AWARD/ CERTIFICATE

The International Journal of Political Science, Law and International Relations (IJPSLIR) has selected a research paper published by Dr Nazmi Abu Libdeh's paper titled "Impact of Israeli settlements on the peaceful settlement of the Palestinian case" as best paper award in that issue.



The International Journal of Political Science, Law and International Relations (IJPSLIR) is a peer reviewed journal for the dissemination of the latest theory, research and analysis in all areas of American politics, including local, state, and national. JPSLIR supplements its broad coverage with in-depth studies of topics of current interest in Special Issues and Symposia and Research Agenda Papers.

This study had concluded that the settlements established by Israel on the Palestinian lands, occupied by Israel in 1967, aim at constant dominance on such lands through imposing such difficult situation and prevents the separation of the settled lands from Israel in any political process aiming at solving the Palestinian dilemma.

## A VISIT FROM BUSINESS SCHOOL LAUSANNE

On Wednesday, 8 February 2017 the University received two visitors from Business School Lausanne who are visiting Bahrain to write a case study about GPIC, the first case study from Gulf region.



In the meeting with Prof. Waheeb, Dr Assem, Dr. Ziad, Dr Ramzi and Dr. Adnan, opportunities of potential collaboration were explored.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people."*

**Theodore Roosevelt**

*Happy Reading*