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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 33rd issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.



In this edition of the News Digest, I would like to highlight the importance of **good governance and management in running academic institutions**, and how they can complement each other. Good governance **provides the right environment** for management to perform academic and administrative tasks to the highest quality within a framework of risk mitigation and reputational protection. Good governance **embraces current and futuristic opportunities** and **provide directions for management** to exploit them. Management should be held accountable for delivering the strategy developed by governance. On the other hand, good governance will **ensure that institutional performance is measured and monitored**. In addition, good governance will **ensure that the right senior management team is in place to deliver the KPIs specified by governance**. The **separation of governance** and management is seen internationally as a good practice in order **to avoid any conflicts of interests and to ensure transparency and professionalism in running an institution**. There is a big emphasis on this separation in the accreditation handbook and our University has put all mechanisms in place to demonstrate that good governance and management are practiced properly and our mission, vision, values and daily tasks and activities reflect this requirement.

In our University, the main **four boards and bodies** that are responsible for the governance and management of the University are:



Board of Directors, Board of Trustees (equivalent to Governing Body, Board of Governors, University Council, or University Court in some British Universities), University Council (equivalent to Senate or Academic Board in the UK) and University Management Committee (equivalent to executive group or senior management team in the UK). These are supported by other various councils and committees to ensure the smooth running of the University.

The Board of Directors chaired by Mr Sameer Nass, is responsible for all financial and investment matters.

The Board of Trustees, chaired by Prof Waheeb Alkhaja, is responsible for strategic planning, defining the vision, mission and directions of the University, risk management, budgeting and finance, and allocation of resources, performance measurement and monitoring. The board is also responsible academic matters related to the appointment of the President, Vice Presidents and Deans, approval of new academic programs and colleges and policies and other issues as specified in the bylaws of the University.

The University Council chaired by the President, which include all VPs and Deans is responsible for academic matters and seen as the body that is delegated authority by the BOTs to deal with quality and standards, teaching and learning, research, and community engagement.

Finally, **the University Management Committee** is responsible for running the University on a daily basis. The terms of reference of these boards and bodies are clearly articulated in the bylaws of the University.

Good governance supported by strong management ensures fairness, trust, respect, integrity, selflessness, engagement, ethical behavior, and the promotion of a culture of excellence. It is pleasing that all these values are shared by both the governance and management of our University.

It is my pleasure to inform you that we received last week the draft reports from the BQA about the three programs with limited confidence in **Administrative Sciences**. All 3 programs achieved adequate progress and there is no need for additional visits. This indicates that **all 3 programs are now in the full confidence state**. I would like to congratulate Prof Waheeb for this achievement and his vision and our colleagues in Administrative Sciences, especially the Dean, Vice Dean, HODs and Program Coordinators. This is a fantastic achievement for the University and the College. We can't publicise this until we received the final confirmation from the BQA. Let's keep up the good work and support our University in achieving full confidence in all its programs. We will celebrate this achievement in due course.

On the evening of Monday 12 June, the Student Council, in collaboration with the Deanship of Students Affairs, organized a **competition** amongst Bahraini Universities on **Quran Recitations**. **14 contestants** took part and the first and second winners were from our University.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Dr Marwan M. Abdeldayem

Position: Associate Prof in the Business Administration Department

1. Tell us about yourself: (Your childhood, academic background)

I had a normal childhood as a typical Egyptian kid.

I earned my Bachelor degree as well as my first Master's degree from Cairo University and was appointed as a Teaching Assistant in the same university until I went to the UK to pursue another Master's degree and my PhD from University of Wales in 2003.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I joined ASU in 2014. I am an academic staff at the Business Administration Dept. In addition, I am Coordinator of the Management & Business Studies program with Cardiff Met.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

My university is in a very good position in Bahrain compared to other universities. I wish ASU to be a leading university regionally and internationally.

The event was organized **under the patronage of HE, Dr Farid Almuftah**, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs and in the presence of HE the chief of the Islamic Shari'a Court in Bahrain. The President, VP Dr Assem, President's advisor Prof Saad, Dean of Students Affairs and many colleagues and students attended this pleasant event. Dr Ahmed Atallah and Dr Murad Aljanabi exerted exceptional efforts in making this competition a great event. In total, **11 contestants from 6 Bahraini Universities took part** and the event concluded at 1:00am in the morning. The **4 judges** have done an excellent job in judging 11 competent contestants. I am grateful to the Deanship of Students Affairs, especially Mr Mohammed Al Najjar and to our Student Council who has been exceptional this year in running and organizing many activities and events.

On 13 June, the Chairman of the BOT, Ms Sabah Almoayed, and the President had a Skype call with the **COO of ITUARI**, a Technopark of Istanbul Technical University to explore opportunities for collaboration in the areas of entrepreneurship, innovation and business incubation.

On 13 June, we heard from the HEC that we can **start advertising** for our **Cardiff Met programs** for a September start. This is fantastic news and we know for sure now that our 2 programs of Management and Business Studies and Accounting and Finance will kick start at the beginning of the academic year 2017/2018. It is now a matter of collective effort to recruit students on these 2 programs.

On the evening of 13 June, the University organized its annual **Ghabqa at ART Amwaj Rotana Hotel**. This social gathering was attended by the Chairman of the BOTs, Professor Waheeb Alkhaja whose presence made a big difference, Mr Mohamed Al Amer, Member of the BOTs, Mr Mohammed Alkhaja, Member of the BODs, many colleagues and their families, many invited guests and friends and some students and Alumni. It was a very enjoyable event, perfect for bonding and getting together. Many thanks must go to the Marketing and Public Affairs team for organizing such an enjoyable event and in particular to Ms Ruqaya for being such a talented host and MC.



4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy teaching, supervising and advising students as well as conducting new research.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

Reading, swimming and playing football

6. Tell us about your favourite food

Seafood.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

Currently, I am reading a book called the "Success Principles" by Jack Canfield. It teaches you how to increase your confidence, tackle daily challenges, live with passion and purpose, and realize all your ambitions.

8. Final words

I wish my University to be a leading one in the Gulf and attract more students from the whole region.

It was really pleasing to see the fun, energy and entertainment dominant throughout the night. The ASU family was in full force and the room was packed with so many people. I personally felt that this Ghabqa was the best organized and most enjoyable so far.

On the evening of 14 June, **HRH the Crown Prince**, visited the **late Abdulla Nass Majlis** where he was received by the Chairman of the BODs, Mr Sameer Nass. The Chairman of the BOTs, Professor Waheeb Alkhaja, members of the BODs and BOTs namely Mr Adel Nass, Mr Ghazi Nass and Mr Mohamed Alamer, the University President, and the Director of Admin and Finance, Mr Abdulla Alkhaja, were in attendance.

On the evening of 15 June, the **Student Council organized their annual Ghabqa** at the University premises. This was an enjoyable event with plenty of games and cultural activities and music. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Student Council and the Deanship of Students Affairs, especially to Mr Mohammed Al Najjar.

Last week, **the College of Arts and Science** was visited by the **BQA** to get feedback on the improvement plans of the **3 Limited Confidence programmes** which they earlier submitted to the DHR. It is vital to turn these programs into full confidence and that's why an external consultant was present in the University to provide staff development sessions in order to deal with all indicators, especially indicator 3 which deals with the quality of the programs graduates.

I would like to conclude this edition of the News Digest by reminding our academic colleagues once again that delivering a **top quality learning and teaching experience to our students** remains the most important activity. This is mainly reflected in the quality of teaching we deliver in the classrooms and the quality of our course portfolios.

UK ALUMNI RAMADAN GHABGA

Prof Saad Darwish, President's Advisor, Member of Bahrain - UK Alumni representing ASU attended the Ramadan Ghabga event on Monday, 5 June 2017. The alumni network offered a programme of activities that provided its members with many opportunities to meet and exchange experiences; to learn and develop their careers; to support and mentor recent graduates and to inspire the next generation of leaders in Bahrain. It was a great opportunity to meet colleagues in this Ramadan holy month.



ASU PARTICIPATED IN "رمضان يجمعنا برياضتنا"

The Community Engagement Office at Applied Science University, in Collaboration with "Live to Give" voluntary team and Muharraq Governorate Police Directorate organized "رمضان يجمعنا برياضتنا" gathering at Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Park in Al Hid City on 3 June 2017.

Expert sports trainers participated in the gathering to give their advices and tips about the best practices of healthy daily style and everything related to diet and sports during the month of Ramadan.



The gathering included different activities such as mini marathon, different training practices, competitions, and providing gifts to attendees.

Academic and administrative staff and students from ASU attended the event in addition to attendees from the local community and voluntary teams.



HONORING ASU AT BAHRAIN DEAF SOCIETY GHABGHA

Applied Science University was honored at Bahrain Deaf Society's Ghabagh that was held in Bapco Club for its outstanding support to the society events and activities, especially during the Arabic Deaf Week 42 that was hosted by the University and organized by the community engagement office with the support of the Deanship of Student Affairs and Marketing and Public Affairs.

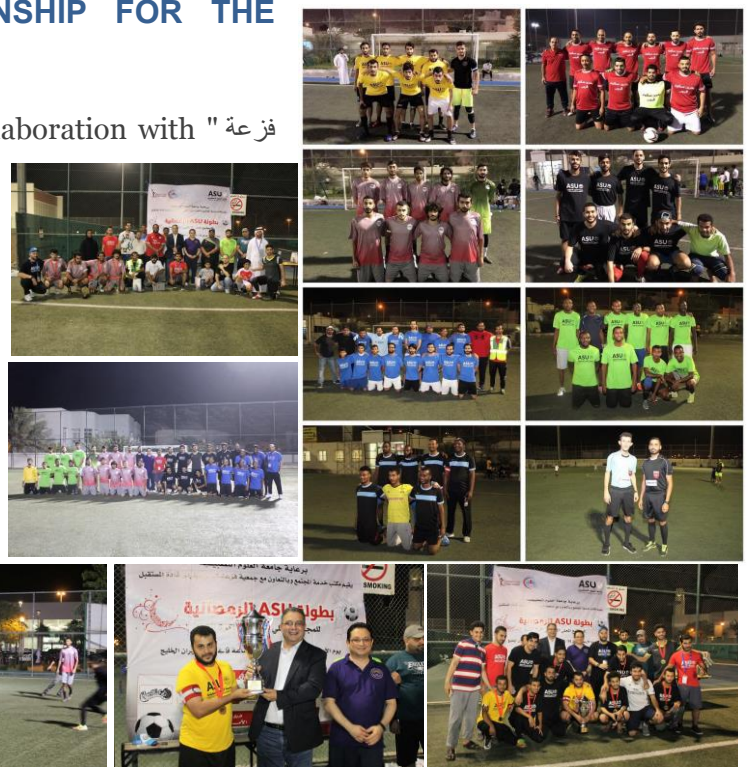


During his speech, Mr. Akeel Ali Hasan Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bahrain Deaf Society thanked the University for its continuous support to Deaf and people with special needs in different fields. A number of academic and administrative staff and students from ASU were honored during the event.

ASU RAMADAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY

The Community Engagement Office with the collaboration with "فزة" Society and "Future Leaders" voluntary team organized ASU Ramadan Football Championship for the voluntary community. The championship was under the patronage of Applied Science University, and in the presence of the President of the University, Professor Ghassan Aouad, for the semi-final and final matches.

The championship which lasted for three days; kick off on Wednesday 14 June 2017 with the participation of ten teams that presented the local community, voluntary groups, and ASU. Around more than 120 players participated in the championship.



CLASS OBSERVATIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

On Wednesday 14 June 2017, Ms. Margaret Tabler, a Senior Consultant in Higher Education, concluded a 10-day work visit at ASU. During her visit, Ms. Margaret performed 15 class visits to observe our academic staff delivering courses in various subjects, mostly in English.



She gave individual feedback to each of the observed faculty members and crowned the activity with a group feedback session on Tuesday 13 June 2017 at the Dome Hall where she presented the positive aspects that she noticed and the areas that need improvements. Our key strengths, she explained, are the genuine interest of our faculty in their students, the mastery of the subjects with extensive expertise, skillful delivery of knowledge in many cases, good classroom presence and some good initiatives to support our teachers such as the collaboration with HEA (Higher Education Academy). On the other hand, she gave some constructive feedback related to the type and cognitive level of the questions asked to the students, the assignments and instructions given to them, and the main parts to consider when shaping a classroom session. She gave some additional tips and tricks about the effective delivery of a lecture namely when it comes to keeping the attention of the students and the use of the supporting materials during the session and how to make the learning more student-centered. She finally concluded by presenting the main expectations of HEC (Higher Education Council) in that regard by enumerating the KIs (Key Indicators) related to learning and teaching delivery mentioned in the institutional accreditation handbook.



On Wednesday 14 June 2017, Ms. Margaret gave another practical workshop for key staff members (Deans, Vice Deans and Program Coordinators) related to program reviews and the best way to approach the sub-indicators mentioned in the Programmes within-College Reviews Handbook of BQA (Education & Training Quality Authority).

Ms. Margaret is represented by SOLO Partners, a consultancy firm headquartered in New York, USA, that specializes in providing expertise and capacity building solutions for HEIs (Higher Education Institutions).

QURAN KAREEM RECITATION COMPETITION

On 12 June 2017, the Student Council members at the Deanship of Student Affairs organized a Quran Kareem Recitation Competition under the Patronage of Dr. Fareed Yaqoob AlMuftah, Deputy Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments. Fourteen students out of 7 Bahraini Universities participated in the competition. The judging panel constituted from Dr Murad Al Janabi, Dr Ahmed Atallah, Dr Mwafaq Al Dalimi and Shaikh Khalil Bnshi who indeed did a great job in judging the participants.



Two students from ASU won the first and third place and the second place went to a student from Bahrain Polytechnic. The first prize is a trip to Makkah Al Mukramah awarded by Suhaib AlRumi Campaign, the second prize was 100 BD awarded by ASU and the third prize was BD 50 cash awarded by Al Salahi Real Estate. The event was extremely successful and everyone enjoyed the inspiring recitation from the students and guests. A massive “THANK YOU” message goes to Dr Murad and Dr Ahmed for running the competition so successfully and faultless and for Mr Mohammed Najjar and Hadeel for their great supervision.



IFTAR ON THE ROAD DURING THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

The Voluntary Club at the Deanship of Student Affairs organized a campaign in the Holy Month of Ramadan called “Iftar on the Road”, with the aim to offer the first meal to break the fast for Muslims on the roads. The campaign took place on Mondays and Thursdays during the month of Ramadan where the volunteering members packed the Iftar bags, then distributed them



to people at the traffic lights during Iftar time. A large number of volunteers (students) participated in this campaign and more than 1000 bags were



distributed so far. The members of the Club enjoyed this campaign and they are looking forward to distribute more Iftar bags in the last week of Ramadan. May God bless them All.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE FUTURES (ICSF) BAHRAIN 2017

Dr. Assem Al-Hajj, Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures (ICSF) Bahrain, is pleased to announce that almost 120 abstracts from around 20 countries were received after the second call for papers which ended on 31 May 2017. It is very pleasing to see that more than 20 abstracts were received from academic staff at Applied Science University. Every abstract was blindly reviewed by 2 members of the Scientific Committee, high-calibre experts in their field, as the first phase of the process. Phase 2 has also been completed and reviewers' feedback sent to all authors. The Committee will be awaiting full papers by 31 July 2017. The third phase will be reviewing the full papers by the aforementioned members of the Scientific Committee.



Dr. Assem would like to thank Prof Ghassan Aouad, ASU President and the Conference Chair for his continuous support and motivation. Also, Dr Assem would like to thank Ms. Diana El Hageova, Coordinator of the Scientific Committee, for all her commitment, dedication and hard work in completing Phases 1 and 2.

Additionally, Dr. Assem would like to thank Prof. Siddeeq Ameen, Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee, Dr. Faiza Zitouni, Chair of the Organising Committee, Ms. Tania Kashou, Conference Coordinator, and other members of the Organising Committee for their efforts.

POLICY OF THE WEEK

Confidentiality Policy ACAD 08

- This policy regulates the exchange of information between different University entities, as well as between University and third parties.
- This policy protects the University from any potential harm resulting from any disclosure of information.
- This policy applies to all full-time and part-time staff, student workers, and affiliates.
- Each employee, consultant, student, or person granted access to data and information holds a position of trust and must preserve the security and confidentiality of the information he/she uses.



- Any employee or person with authorized access to the University's computer resources, information system, records or files shall use the data or files solely for University business.
- There are 9 principles that govern confidentiality at the University.
- The University maintains a database of general information on students, which may be accessed by certain outside organizations/institutions upon request, and provided the consent of the student is secured. The Deanship of Admissions and Registration is the custodian of student information.
- Any violation by a University employee or student worker will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment / cancellation of admission.
- A University employee or affiliate may be subject to criminal or civil prosecution as per the Bahrain Labour Law.

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

ASU STRATEGIC PLAN

3. Community Engagement:



We ensure that our scholarly work and research is communicated widely and has an impact on the local community. It is our duty to ensure our students understand their obligations as citizens in engaging and supporting the community which they are part of.

Strategic Priority number 1: Consultancy and Advisory

Develop meaningful and substantial relations with external agencies for advisory work and consultancy services in areas in which the university has expertise.

Our Strategic Objective is:

Develop meaningful and substantial relationships with external agencies for advisory work and offer consultancy services in areas where the university has expertise.

Strategic Priority number 2: Student and Alumni Involvement

Ensure that there are sufficient opportunities to engage students, alumni and staff in a range of Community Engagement activities.

Our Strategic Objectives are:

Ensure that there are sufficient opportunities for our students to participate in and initiate Community Engagement activities.

Involve our Alumni Network in activities within and outside the university.

Encourage students to develop links with other academic institutions and similar student bodies for knowledge sharing and character building activities.

Strategic Priority number 3: Open Campus

Maximize the use of campus facilities to support outreach activities by developing, delivering lectures, information sessions, seminars or workshops to disseminate the work of the University to a wider audience.

Our Strategic Objectives are:

Use the university resources to disseminate knowledge to the external community for free or at a nominal cost.

Support appropriate use of our facilities and services by the public, schools, academic institutions and charitable organizations.

Strategic Priority number 4: Knowledge Sharing

Our Strategic Objective is:

Turn the University into a knowledge hub not only for its students but also for the wider community.

Our Strategic Objective is:

Develop and deliver a portfolio of services that the University can offer to the community in order to provide informed discussion and debate on subject areas in which it has expertise.

Strategic Priority number 5: Community Service

Promote Bahrain based charities and social service organizations and encourage staff and students to volunteer to support them.

Our Strategic Objectives are:

Use the university resources to allow local community groups operating on a not for profit basis, to publicize their activities and where appropriate provide facilities to support forums or debates on local issues.

Encourage ASU staff and student to volunteer their time and resources for improving and helping the community.

Strategic Priority number 6: Public Outreach

Reach out to the wider community and engage with the various factions of society and stakeholders.

Our Strategic Objectives are:

Increase dialogue and engagement opportunities between policy makers and university talent.

Establish a link with feeder schools to inform and educate prospective students about higher education issues and the importance of education.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for others guides our manners.”

Laurence Sterne

Happy Reading

