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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 34th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.



In this issue of the News Digest, I would like to cover the important subject of **communication** which is vital in keeping all University' stakeholders informed about activities, events, initiatives and developments.

The University's stakeholders include the BOTs, staff, students, Student Council, alumni, program advisory board members, the regulatory bodies like HEC and BQA, our partners especially those we have signed MOUs with them, internships partners, British Universities partners, employers, schools, influential organizations like EDB, British Embassy, British Council, Department of International Trade UK, various Government Departments, and organizations from the Private Sector.



The mechanisms that could be used to facilitate **communication** include News Digest, University Magazine, web site, social media including Instagram and Facebook, circulars, progress reports, surveys, all staff meetings, communication group meetings involving the middle management of the University, regular meetings with students, graduation ceremony, visits to schools, annual university dinner, social events like staff camp and Ghabgha, and meetings with various stakeholders.

Communication with the BOTs happens throughout the year nearly on a daily basis as the Chairman of the BOTs and the President are keeping each other informed of any developments in the University. In addition, the Chairman of the BOTs chairs on a monthly basis the senior communication group meeting including the President and 2 VPs and other colleagues when needed. The President provides progress reports to the BOTs at every single meeting of the Board and they have been receiving on a weekly basis the President's News Digest in order to keep them abreast of what's happening in the University. The BOTs are also being kept informed through our social media channels including Instagram.





The communication with staff happens through various channels including all staff meetings, which take place twice a year and the middle management communication group meetings, 4-6 times a year depending on business matters urgency. The weekly President's News Digest is the main mechanism to keep staff informed about opportunities, challenges, activities and events. In addition, most of our events and activities are reported on Instagram and they are regularly accessed by the staff. The web site also documents most of our events and give staff access to various resources including the academic calendar and schedule of planned activities and events. The University magazine which is produced on a yearly basis also documents the major functions, developments, and events that took place in the previous year.



Communication with students is another important activity in the University. The President's News Digest is circulated to all students on a weekly basis and they all have access to our yearly magazine that captures major activities and developments. In addition, the President and senior team have regular meetings with the Students Council and major University's clubs. Of course, most of our students prefer social media communication via Instagram, Facebook and other means. The web site is also another source of information for them. The Deanship of Students Affairs play a major role in facilitating communication between the administration and students and vice versa. They are also responsible for facilitating communication with the Alumni and Alumni Club through events like the Annual Alumni Dinner.



Communication with external stakeholders take place through formal and informal mechanisms. Formal mechanisms include meetings of the Program Advisory Boards, formal launch events and informally through social and cultural events like staff camp, and Ghabgha.

The whole idea behind launching the **President's News Digest** was to facilitate communication and to keep the BOTs, staff, students and other external stakeholders informed of University's activities and events. So far, we have published 86 copies of this weekly news digest and we never missed a single week.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Noor Nael Al-Awamleh

Position: Office Manager – Deanship of Admissions & Registration

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

I was born in Jordan and grew up in Amman. I have 2 brothers and only one sister. I lost my mother and my only sister in 2012 in a horrible car accident (may Allah have mercy on them). This was a tragic point in my life.

After I finished my secondary school, I joined the University of Jordan and studied Computer Information Systems for 2 years.

Later on, I moved with my family to Bahrain, and I obtained my BSc. Degree in Information Systems from University of Bahrain with a GPA rating excellent with honor degree.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I joined ASU since 2008 as an Administrator at the Deanship of Admissions & Registration. Recently, in December 2016, I was promoted to my current position as an Office Manager. In this context, I am very grateful to Dr. Faiza Zitouni (my previous dean) and Mr. Siddiq Babaker for their great support in getting this promotion.

The secret of success of this initiative is related to your contributions, and the dedication, passion, and ownership of the President's office director. The News Digest is well received by the BOTs, staff, students and other stakeholders. I am confident that the accreditation panel will see this initiative as a good practice.



The monthly HEC progress reports compiled by the Office of the VP Academic Affairs and Development is another good initiative. We should start circulating these reports to all staff and students and we should start putting them on our web site.



Our **presence** is the **media** and **press** has been very strong over the last couple of years. Many thanks to our colleagues in Marketing and Public Affairs for communicating our success stories, students' events, and major developments in the University. Our presence in the English press has also improved immensely over the last 12 months and this is beneficial as we launch our British Programs in September.

The **web site** is our image to the external world. It should be kept up to date in both Arabic and English. It is a main source for engaging with the outside world and for student recruitment.



The **computer screens** spread across the University are used to display our organizational and Physical charts, our strategic plan, and various students' activities and events. In addition, banners and posters are used to display information about the golden rules of teaching, a great teacher, vision and mission of the University, and graduate attributes.

Research has shown that many organizations suffer because of lack of communication or communication overload and fatigue. In our University, we are trying to strike the right balance and by devising innovative and exciting communication mechanisms, we are keeping our stakeholders engaged.



On Sunday, the President, Dr Mohamed Alhamami, Mr Abdulla Alkhaja, and Mr Hameed from Marketing and Public Affairs visited the

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

As we all know, ASU is a leading university in Bahrain and among GCC countries with a distinguished reputation. In addition, it is expanding its dimensions to be an international educational organization by hosting some academic programs with LSBU and Cardiff Met. University.

I sincerely hope that our beloved University will meet accreditation requirements at all levels, and to be a "Star" among other educational organizations nationally and internationally Insha'Allah.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

Regarding my assigned tasks, I enjoy preparing and writing correspondences. In addition, helping others is another enjoyable thing that I try to do as much as I can.

Regarding the work environment, our kind team make me feel, as we are one family.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

At my earlier life, I liked drawing and writing. Later on, due to my growing responsibilities and having 2 lovely daughters (twins), there is no more time to do my hobbies. Time is split between work and home duties. Furthermore, I am interested in cooking and shopping.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

My favorite food is a dish called "Magloobeh" (upside down).

Royal Charity Organization and met the Secretary General of the Organization, Dr Mustafa Alsayed and other colleagues and we signed an MOU with them. This is a fantastic achievement and many thanks must go to Dr Mohamed Yousif for initiating this.

On Monday 19 June, we were visited by **inspection teams from the HEC** and the civil defense to check our health and safety procedures and our labs. I strongly believe that our colleagues have put strong mechanisms in place to meet their requirements.



On Wednesday 21 June, an **all staff meeting** was held at the Dome Hall attended by more than 130 colleagues and in the presence of the



Chairman of the BOT. The President briefed staff about many issues including accreditation, program reviews, British programs,



students recruitment, students support, HEC rules and bylaws, quality of teaching, course portfolios, HEA contract, and quality assurance with particular emphasis on surveys and closing the loops. The presence and concluding speech of Prof Waheeb made a big

difference. Many thanks are due to Ms Tania for organizing this event, out IT colleagues, Mr Bahaa from Marketing and Public Affairs and Mr Motalib for the logistical work in the Dome Hall. It is interesting that up to 180 people can be accommodated in this room.

I would like to conclude this edition of the News Digest by wishing you and your family **Happy Eid El Fitr**. I sincerely hope that this Eid will bring you happiness, prosperity and success.

GHABGHA FOR THE BAHRAINI RESEARCHERS AND INVENTORS SOCIETY

On 19 June, Prof Saad Darwish, President's Advisor for Special Projects attended the annual Ghabgha for the Bahraini Researchers and Inventors Society.



Bahraini Researchers and Inventors Society.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

During the Holy Month of Ramadan, I am reading the holy book "Qur'an".

8. Final words

I am glad to be rewarded the ideal employee; this encourages me to continue performing my tasks more efficiently and try my best to improve the required skills. Many thanks to the HR department for selecting me and for their continuous efforts in supporting employees.

Last but not least, my deepest appreciation for Dr. Isa Al Khayat and Mr. Siddiq Babaker for nominating me for the ideal employee award.

I wish ASU a prosperous future and continuous success.

In addition, many thanks to you due to your great efforts in preparing President's News Digest weekly, it keeps us informed of what is going on at the University.

Finally, Eid Mubarak for all.

This society is responsible for creating an environment that encourages inventions and researches and inspire all the Bahraini researchers and inventors to benefit from the invention programs. The Society strive to increase the focus on scientific invention and research activities among school students, university students and other educational institutions.

Furthermore, it encourages and evaluates inventors on specific competencies and valuable basis. The objective is to utilize inventions to the benefit of the country and involve inventors in Bahrain's industrial development. Moreover, it will assist inventors that reached global recognition with their inventions and preserve inventors and researchers intellectual property.

During the event, Prof Saad discussed opportunities for future collaborations with the society. The Chairman of Bader Group Mr. Fareed Bader gave a stimulating lecture on the future of invention.

STUDENT COUNCIL GHABGHA (OUR HAPPINESS IS IN OUR GATHERING)

The Student Council for its 10th cycle in the Deanship of Student Affairs organized a ghabgha night on 15 June 2017 under the name “Our Happiness is in Our Gathering” at ASU Campus. The event was attended by a big number of students, alumni, alumni club members, and other universities student council members. The attendees enjoyed the event, which included different activities like gerga’oon, lewa traditional band, competitions and student volunteers honoring for the year. The Student Council did a great job in organizing a successful event by having Ramadan vibes décor and having an interactive atmosphere.



SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS SPEECHES DELIVERED BY DR MURAD JANABI

The Community Services Office at our University participated in many activities during the Holy Month of Ramadan. These activities were held inside and outside the University campus.

Dr. Murad Abdulla Janabi delivered social and religious speeches inside and outside our university. Each Saturday after Asr prayer he delivers a speech about "Fasting and its Influence in Uniting the Muslims Community". He also delivered speeches on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in Busaiteen Mosques after Taraweeh Prayers about the “Virtues of the Month of Ramadan and How Does Islam Help in Building the Civilized Cultural Personality”. Dr Murad also delivers speeches every Wednesday at Al-Zamil Mosques in Hidd after Aser prayer about “Moderation and the Avoidance of Extremism in Islam.” He also delivered a speech in Fatima Ma’awda Mosque in Rifa’a about the “Secrets of the Revelation of the Holy Quran” and another lecture about “The Night of Power”. He also delivered a speech in Ghawee Mosque in Muharraq about the “Five Pillars of Islam”. It is well-known that Dr. Murad is always keen to support our students and he is a wealth of knowledge and has a distinguished rhetorical style.

CE OFFICE ORGANIZED QARQAON “فرجان لول” CELEBRATION

Under the patronage of Mr. Adel Bin Abdulrahman ALAsomi, member of Bahraini parliament, the Community Engagement Office at Applied Science University organized a Qarqaon Celebration “فرجان لول” in collaboration with “Live to Give” voluntary team and Bahrain Deaf Society. The event was held in the Charitable Council in Al Hoorah and Gudaibiah on 9 June 2017.



The audience enjoyed the event which included different activities for kids and adults such as folklore band shows, competitions, face painting, distributing gifts and much more. A famous Bahraini public figure “Baba Yassen” managed the kids’ competitions. Mr. ALAsomi thanked Applied Science University for its continuous support to the community and arranging charitable and voluntary activities.



CE OFFICE PARTICIPATED IN “رمضان امان” CAMPAIGN

The Community Engagement Office at Applied Science University participated in handing out Iftar boxes. The initiative was part of the “Ramadan Safety Campaign” “رمضان امان” that was organized by “فرجة شباب” society in partnership with Alihsan Charity Association “الاحسان الخيرية” society from UAE. The aim of the campaign that was run in four GCC countries (UAE, KSA, Kuwait, and Bahrain) was to maintain traffic safety and to reduce all traffic accidents during the holy month.



H. H. Shaikh Dr. AbdulAziz AlNouaimi from UAE, Shaikh Saqer bin Salman AlKhalifa, Shaikh Rashed Bin Ahmed AlKhalifa, and a number of active people in the field of volunteering and charity participated in the first day. The campaign distributed around (20000) meals for several days in Bahrain.



POLICY OF THE WEEK

Academic Advising Policy Summary

Thanks to the Dean of Admissions and Registration for providing this summary.

I. All registered students will be assigned an academic advisor before commencement of their coursework. The students will be given an opportunity and meet their advisors through an orientation process.



II. Academic Advisor will assist the student in successful completion of their degree program through periodic coaching, mentoring and guiding the students through the Universities policies, regulations and assessment criteria.

III. Academic Advisors will help in developing well rounded individuals who are able to make informed and sound career choices and also help the students through their personal issues and problems that may come in the way of their academic progress.

IV. Academic advisors are available to support and guide the student however students themselves are responsible for selecting and managing the content of their academic programs and making satisfactory progress toward their chosen academic degrees.

V. Maximum number of students per faculty will be set according to University Bylaws and HEC guidelines.

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

ASU STRATEGIC PLAN



Student Support

We support our students as part of a 'learning community'. We ensure that all students realize their full potential – both in engaging fully with the opportunities provided for study and research and in preparing them for the world of work.

Strategic Priority number 1: Continuous Support

Support students through all phases of the student journey from admission to graduation and employment.

Our Strategic Objectives are:

Support students in their transition to the University through provision of comprehensive induction and academic advising.

Monitor and maximize the potential of students to progress through their studies and graduate with the degree which they aspired to attain within an appropriate time frame.

Strategic Priority number 2: Engagement and Employability

Ensure the personal and professional development of students through the provision of extra-curricular opportunities.

Our Strategic Objectives are:

Ensure that where possible there are opportunities for students to gain practical experience through internships. Ensure that all programmes not only develop students' knowledge and understanding but incorporate professional and personal skills development.

Provide a range of extra-curricular activities for students to support their personal and professional development. Ensure that students are well prepared to gain relevant employment on satisfactory completion of their programme.

Strategic Priority number 3: Campus Environment

Create and resource a campus environment that supports and enriches independent student learning

Our Strategic Objectives are:

Ensure that the information technology infrastructure meets the needs of students and resources are adequate in terms of both quality and quantity to support their directed and independent learning needs.

Provide appropriate printed and web based resources to support student learning and ensure students are equipped with the skills to find and use appropriate information sources.

Strategic Priority number 4: Entrepreneurship Innovation and Leadership

Support and encourage students in a culture of engagement, entrepreneurship and innovation and prepare them to become leaders in their chosen professions.

Our Strategic Objectives are:

Ensure that all programmes provide the opportunity for students to develop entrepreneurial skills and encourage learners to be innovative and prepare them for leadership roles in the industry/profession.

In line with the Bahraini National Higher Education Strategy, ASU is committed to implementing a mechanism that will embed entrepreneurship as an ASU graduate attribute and a key transferable skill across the University.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The most important thing in communication is hearing what isn't said.”

Peter Drucker



Happy Reading

