

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 37th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.



I would like to start this edition of the News Digest by addressing the issue of **internationalization**, which is a supporting pillar in our strategic plan. It is strategically important for the University to promote a strong culture of internationalization, which pro-actively encourages our staff, students, alumni, and other stakeholders to engage internationally. Our partnerships with London South Bank University and Cardiff Met have already started to pay dividends with the launch of 4 new programs in the Engineering and Business areas and the planned international conference on Sustainable Futures.

**Internationalization** is not just about recruiting international students even though this is an important component of the University's business, it is also about embedding the concepts of “internationalizing of the curriculum”, “global citizenship”, “international partnerships” and “global branding” within our practices including Learning and Teaching, Research & Innovation and Community Engagement.



We are living in a changing knowledge economy world and we need to respond quickly to major global changes and opportunities. Vision 2030 is about making Bahrain a knowledge hub. As a major contributor to the knowledge economy, it is essential that we anticipate and respond to international drivers and that our staff and our students are equipped to work and live anywhere and to attract international students from the region and beyond.

Our **success measures** in the area of internationalization could be related to our inclusion within recognized global rankings, number of individual international links, number and quality of students studying and/or working abroad each year, number and quality of new international partnership, number of staff and students exchanges, number of international students on campus, number of international students on partner programs, % of staff who are international, number of articles (and citations) co-authored with international scholars, number and quality of

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international conferences, number of international visitors/visiting scholars, quality of international speakers on our annual Distinguished Research Seminar (ADS) series, and increase in international professional accreditations and awards.

The University is doing relatively well on some of the above measures. **Our international partnerships with LSBU and Cardiff Met** are going from strength to strength. With LSBU, we are launching **2 engineering programs** in September 2017 namely **B.Eng. in Civil and Construction Engineering and B.Eng. in Architectural Design Engineering**. Our joint **conference** with LSBU on Sustainable Futures to be held in November 2017 has attracted **120 abstracts** from over 20 countries. In addition, our work on launching a joint Venture with LSBU is progressing well. With regards to our work with Cardiff Met, we are launching in September 2017 two Bachelors programs in **Management and Business studies, and Accounting and Finance**. Other successful measures include our annual distinguished research seminar series, the high percentage of international academic staff, and number of international visits from and to the university.

Future plans in the area of internationalization should include the **identification of more new programs** with LSBU and Cardiff Met, that meet market demands and employer needs in Bahrain and the region, the establishment of an international alumni network with advocates to promote the University's good work, the identification of international priority markets to recruit students, specifically for our new British programs, and finally the branding and international positioning of our University.

On Sunday 9 July, the Chairman of the BOTs, Professor Waheeb Al-Khaja, hosted an inaugural meeting of the Chartered Institute of Building in order to initiate its activities in Bahrain. The University President and VP for Academic Affairs and Development were also in attendance.



Ms Eileen Hill, Manager of CIOB Middle East and North Africa welcomed everyone in attendance to the start-up meeting that will promote the services of CIOB in the Kingdom of Bahrain. She also thanked the ASU representatives for hosting the meeting and offer of using their accommodation moving forward.

Those in attendance provided an overview of their background along with areas of potential collaboration that were keen to investigate. It was agreed by those in attendance that the committee is formed with all of those who expressed an interest whether in attendance or not, a call for a Chairperson was made and the University President was unanimously elected by the attendees, which he accepted. The Chairman of the BOTs, who is the first Bahraini (academic) Fellow of the Institute, has always been keen of our involvement with the CIOB, as this will open doors for us in terms of students recruitment, professional accreditation and raising the University's profile internationally and he was very supportive for me to lead this activity in Bahrain and I am grateful for this.

On the afternoon of Sunday 9 July, the President and VPs and all Deans and other colleagues attended a ceremony to recognize our outstanding students in the last academic semester. Many thanks are due to the Deanship of Students Affairs for organizing such an enjoyable ceremony. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our outstanding students for their achievements and successes and to wish them well in their studies.



On Monday 10 July, the Chairman of the BOTs, the President and Mr Yasser had a meeting with Ms Sabah Almoayed to progress our work in the area of innovation and entrepreneurship.



On Thursday 13 July, the President and advisor of the President on special projects met the President of the Bahrain Society for Training and Development (BSTD)

and other colleagues from the Society to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

On Thursday 13 July, Professor Dolina Dowling gave a very interesting presentation to our staff following her class observations assignment. She addressed 4 important aspects that make a model lecture. These are: organization and structure, subject knowledge, instructor-student interaction for an enhanced learning experience, and use of technology.

I would like to thank Prof Dolina for her insights and rigorous work and Drs Assem, Faiza and Adel and Ms Diana for organizing the class observations activity and Prof Dolina's presentation. Dr Faiza will circulate the slides to all staff in order to benefit from the good lessons captured in this presentation. Many thanks are also due to the 30+ colleagues who attended this very useful presentation.

On Thursday 13 July, the University's Management Committee held its weekly meeting with particular emphasis on preparation for the next semester and student recruitment.

Below is a list of things that need to be done in preparation for the next semester:

**1. University prospectus** for the academic year 2017/2018 in Arabic and English: Ms Ruqaya, Dr Assem, Vice Deans, Prof Saad and Mr Hatem: End of July 2017, it just needs some updating

**2. Program Handbooks** for existing and new programs for the academic year 2017/2018 in Arabic and English (Arabic programs) and English (English programs): Ms Ruqaya, Dr Assem, Vice Deans, Prof Saad and Mr Hatem: End of July 2017

**3. Staff Induction:** 2 VPs, Mr Abdulla, before Mid September 2017

**4. Students Orientation:** Dr Faiza, Before Mid September 2017

## INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



**Name:** Yasser Mustafa Yousif

**Position:** Head of Administrative Training /Acting Head of International Partnerships Office

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

I was born and brought up in Kuwait, finished my university degree in management from Jordan, came to Bahrain in 2003.

I've been a master Corporate Trainer for over 12 years, my experience and association with people from various domains helped me to effectively manage people and their behaviors within an organization. I am a creative person within my discipline and I possess excellent inter-personal management skills. I've delivered 1000s of training programs on People Management, ethics, Leadership, Communication skills, Emotional Intelligence, Customer Service and HR that covered a wide variety of sectors. I have also been attached to HRD in my entire career for staff learning and development.

### 2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I currently manage the training function of the administrative body of staff and I am the acting head of the international partnerships office. I enjoy working in both functions and specially the team spirit of the people around me.

- 5. Staffing and approval by HEC:** Dr Mohammed, Mr Abdulla, HR, before the start of the academic year
- 6. Students Recruitment and Admissions:** Ms Ruqaya, Dr Isa: until September 2017
- 7. HEC annual report:** Dr Assem and Prof Hilal, draft by Mid September, as the final copy will be submitted by End of September 2017
- 8. Periodic program Reviews:** Prof Hilal, semester one
- 9. University Surveys:** Prof Hilal, Prof Saad, Dr Faiza, Vice Deans: ongoing
- 10. Foundation Year:** all preparations should be in place: Dr Nympha
- 11. Course portfolios are completed:** Deans and Vice Deans, End of July 2017
- 12. Timetabling:** Dr Isa, Deans and Vice Deans
- 13. IT facilities, Moodle, IT in the classrooms:** Mr Rifat
- 14. Library books, subscriptions, inventories:** Dr Ammar
- 15. Classrooms, labs, Health and Safety:** Dr Mohammed, Dr Oday, Mr Abdulla, Mr Majed
- 16. Web Site:** Ms Ruqaya
- 17. Submission of final operational plans, KPIs, Strategy and Risk Register updates:** Mr Hatem, End of July 2017
- 18. Accreditation Preparation and evidence collection:** Prof Saad, Mr Hatem, Ms Mariam
- 19. NQF:** Dr Assem
- 20. Programs with limited confidence:** Dr Belal, Dr Oday
- 21. Training Needs Analysis:** Dr Mohamed, Dr Faiza, Dr Adel, Mr Abdulla, Mr Yasser
- 22. HEA contract:** Dr Faiza, Dr Adel
- 23. Bylaws and policies:** 2 VPs, Prof Hilal, Mr Hatem
- 24. Classroom Observations:** Dr Assem
- 25. Program Advisory Boards:** Deans and Vice Deans
- 26. University Magazine,** Ms Ruqaya, End of July 2017

### **3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University**

ASU has a lot of potential, as both facilities and human resources; one day, ASU will be on top of the international league.

### **4. What do you enjoy most about your job?**

I enjoy the fast pace and the team spirit.

### **5. Tell us about your hobbies**

I love music in general. I also play guitar from time to time, and do general reading.

### **6. Tell us about your favourite food**

I'm not much of an adventurous person when it comes to food, I prefer anything within the Mediterranean cuisine.

### **7. Tell us about the book you are reading now**

Besides the University's policies, accreditation handbook and the ministry of labor laws, I'm currently reading a book about leadership titled with "Leadership, Becoming Management Material", the book is a tool for leadership development. It is designed to help you create and accomplish your personal best, and to help you lead others to get extraordinary things done.

### **8. Final words**

Thanks to the University management for the opportunities they provide and the wise leadership, which we all learn from.

**27. Graduation Ceremony:** Dr Isa, Dr Faiza, Ms Ruqaya, to be held on 25 October 2017

**28. International Conference in November:** Dr Assem, Dr Faiza, Ms Tania, Ms Diana, Mr Muath, Ms Mariam

I would like to conclude this edition by thanking all colleagues who have worked so hard over the last 11 months and to wish them well for their summer breaks at the end of the month. Next year is phenomenal in the history of the University, as the accreditation visit will happen, most likely in the second semester. Achieving accreditation is by far our top priority. The key to achieving accreditation is to remain positive and united as a team and to address all the Key Indicators in the Accreditation Handbook. We have to be driven by quality, professionalism, and team spirit in order to sail through this important activity. Please always remember that accreditation is a stamp of quality and will open many doors for us locally, regionally and internationally.

### “GIVE ME YOUR BOOK” INITIATIVE

On 7 July 2017, the Student Council members at the Deanship of Student Affairs organized the fourth forum on cultural initiatives that encompass the importance of books and reading at all ages. The book selection of the day was entitled; “The Rich Dad and The Poor Dad”. There was an open interactive discussion where students and the audience expressed their views on the book. Dr. Ammar Jalamanah the director of the library presented a talk about the importance of reading and the benefits of books. He concluded that it is easy to lose ourselves in books, also we find ourselves in books too.



### ASU HONORS ITS “OUTSTANDING STUDENTS” – SECOND SEMESTER OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017

On 9 July 2017, the Deanship of Student Affairs organized an honoring event for the outstanding students of the second semester of the academic year 2016-2017. The event was under the patronage of Professor Ghassan Aouad, the University President and was attended by Dr Assem, VP for Academic Affairs and development, Dr Faiza Dean of Student Affairs, Dr Isa Al Khayyat Dean of Admissions & Registration, the Colleges’ Deans, academic staff, students and proud parents. Sixty-One students were honored and given special discounts on their fees depending on their level of achievements. In this event, two of our students, who won the first and second place in the Universities table tennis tournament, were honored by Prof. Ghassan Aouad for their great and exceptional success.



## POLICY OF THE WEEK

### ACAD 06: Programme Advisory Board Policy (Summary)

**Purpose: Emphasize the roles and responsibilities of the Programme Advisory Boards at the University.**

**Every** current academic programme will have a **programme advisory board (PAB)** comprising of external experts and prolific members of the society. The PAB consists of **6 to 10 members**, out of which 50% are of **external** non-academic, non-staff members. PAB members are **ultimately appointed** by the University Council following recommendation of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Development and the President, after receiving nominated candidates from the Dean, after having received shortlisted candidates from the Department Council following nominations of the respective Head of Department. PAB members are appointed for **3 years**. Every PAB will have an **external chair** elected by the Board itself during the first meeting. PAB must meet **at least once every semester**. PAB members shall not be remunerated.

#### **Key responsibilities of Programme Advisory Board:**

1. Strengthen and enhance the academic programmes at the University and their course content
2. Help keep the University programmes relevant in context of the evolving requirements of the industry
3. Act as a link between practical application and academic theories to ensure the enduring suitability and relevance of the University's academic programmes
4. Promote opportunities for industry internships
5. Foster collaboration for research opportunities

PAB must neither have any governing or performance monitoring role, nor have the authority to make strategic or operational decisions for the University.

## REMINDER OF THE WEEK



### **3.1.3 Academic Standards of the Graduates (from the BQA programme review handbook)**

**Indicator 3:** The graduates of the programme meet academic standards compatible with equivalent programmes in Bahrain, regionally and internationally.

**3.1.3.1** Graduate attributes are clearly stated in terms of aims and achieved learning outcomes for the programme and for each course and are ensured through the use of assessment which is valid and reliable in terms of the learning outcomes.

**3.1.3.2** Benchmarks and internal and external reference points are used to determine and verify the equivalence of academic standards with other similar programmes in Bahrain, regionally and internationally. This will include clear statements and evidence about:

- the purpose of benchmarking QQA - Programmes-within-College Reviews Handbook 11
- the choice of what is benchmarked and what it is against
- how the process is managed
- how the outcomes are used.

**3.1.3.3** Assessment policies and procedures are consistently implemented, monitored and subject to regular review and are made available to students.

**3.1.3.4** There are mechanisms to ensure the alignment of assessment with outcomes to assure the academic standards of the graduates.

**3.1.3.5** There are mechanisms in place to measure the effectiveness of the programme's internal moderation system for setting assessment instruments and grading student achievement.

**3.1.3.6** There are procedures which are consistently implemented for the external moderation of assessment and there are mechanisms to allow for feedback on assessment in line with assessed courses.

**3.1.3.7** The level of achievement as expressed in samples of students' assessed work is appropriate to the level and type of the programme in Bahrain, regionally and internationally.

**3.1.3.8** The level of achievement of graduates meets programme aims and intended learning outcomes, as demonstrated in final results, grade distribution and confirmation by internal and external independent scrutiny.

**3.1.3.9** The ratios of admitted students to successful graduates including rates of progression, retention, year-on-year progression, length of study and first destinations of graduates, are consonant with those achieved on equivalent programmes in Bahrain, regionally and internationally.

**3.1.3.10** Where assessed work-based learning takes place, there is a policy and procedure to manage the process and its assessment to assure that the learning experience is appropriate in terms of content and level to meet the intended learning outcomes. Mentors are assigned to students to monitor and review this.

**3.1.3.11** Where there is a dissertation, thesis or industry project component there are policies and procedures and monitoring for supervision which state the responsibilities and duties of both the supervisor and the postgraduate student and there is a mechanism to monitor implementation and improvement.

**3.1.3.12** There is a functioning programme advisory board with clear terms of reference and it includes discipline experts, employers and alumni and its feedback is used systematically to inform programme decision-making.

**3.1.3.13** There is evidence of graduate and employer satisfaction with the standards of the graduate profile.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Whatever I lack in talent I have in stamina."*

**Richard C. Armitage**

Happy Reading  
