

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

13 August 2017 – VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 41

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 41<sup>st</sup> issue of the second year of the President's News Digest. I would like to start this edition of the News Digest by summarizing the key achievements over the last 12 months. These main achievements are related to accreditation, program reviews, launch of the College of Engineering with London South Bank University and new programs with Cardiff Met, and important functions and events that took place in the University.



Our application to the HEC for institutional accreditation was submitted on the 26th of March 2017. The application form was submitted in both Arabic and English with all supporting materials in English including detailed CVs and job descriptions of the senior management and all academic staff, university catalogue, program handbooks, staff and students handbooks, marketing materials, and students admissions forms. The HEC has already started scrutinizing our application. Once this task is successfully completed, an accreditation visit will be finalized by the HEC. Our accreditation group is meeting on a weekly basis and external consultants have been assigned tasks to help with the preparation for this important activity.

It is pleasing to report that all our programs in Administrative Sciences have now achieved full confidence by the BQA (our Bachelor programs in Political Sciences and MIS and our Masters in Accounting and Finance have recently achieved full confidence, but we are still waiting for the official letter as a final confirmation from the BQA).

Following the approval by the HEC to set up the new College of Engineering with London South Bank University, a signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Cooperation took place under the patronage of the Secretary General of the HEC and in the presence of HE the British Ambassador to Bahrain, the Vice Chancellor and Pro Vice Chancellor of LSBU, the Chairman of the BODs, the Chairman of the BOTs, the President of the

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University, many members of the BODs and BOTs, Head of UKTI in Bahrain and important dignitaries and colleagues and students from the University. Following the signing ceremony, the Vice Chancellor of LSBU opened an LSBU office at the University's premises. The Bahraini Cultural Attaché to London and the Chairman of the BOT opened an office of ASU in London based at the LSBU premises.

An official launch of our new College of Engineering in collaboration with LSBU took place on the 13th of April. The event was organized under the patronage of HE the British Ambassador to Bahrain, Mr. Simon Martin, and in the presence of the Chairman of the BOTs and many important dignitaries including HE the Italian Ambassador, HE the Russian Ambassador, the Dean of the School of the Built Environment and Architecture at LSBU, the President of Bahrain Society of Engineers, the President of Bahrain SMEs, the managing director of Bahrain Economic Development Board, many University Presidents, school representatives and colleagues from the media and press. A large number of colleagues from the University and the President of our Student Council have also attended the event. The ceremony started with a welcoming speech by the Chairman of the BOTs setting the scene for the new college followed by a speech by HE the British Ambassador who expressed his strong support for our collaboration with LSBU. The President then presented an overview of the University followed by a presentation by Dr Assem about the College of Engineering and its departments and programs. The last speech was by the Dean of the Built Environment and Architecture at LSBU who gave an overview of LSBU and its major achievements, most notably its recent recognition as the entrepreneurial university of the year in the UK. A very nice video was shown at the beginning of the ceremony about our collaboration with LSBU. Admissions of students on the first 2 programs namely Civil and Construction Engineering, and Architectural Design Engineering, is now open and a good number of students have already registered on these programs.

The HEC has approved our Memorandum of Cooperation with Cardiff Met to start the 2 new programs namely Management and Business Studies and Accounting and Finance. A letter was also received from the HEC confirming that we can start recruiting on these 2 programs in September 2017. Signing ceremonies of the agreement took place in Cardiff and Bahrain under the patronage of the Secretary General of the HEC and in the presence of HE the British Ambassador to Bahrain, the Vice Chancellor and Pro Vice Chancellor of Cardiff Met, the Chairman of the BODs, the Chairman of the BOTs, the President of the University, and many members of the BODs and BOTs and many colleagues and students and invited external dignitaries.

Three MOUs were signed with the Bahrain Business Women Society, SMEs Bahrain, and Flat 6 labs.

A very successful educational exhibition covering 15 cultures was organized to support our students in their academic activities under the patronage of HE Sheikha Hala Bint Mohamed AlKhalifah

The University took part in an exhibition organized by the British Embassy to celebrate 200 years of trade relations between the UK and Bahrain and the Chairman of the BOT met HRH, Prince Charles, during his visit to our stand.

The University took part in "This is Bahrain Rome", an initiative spearheaded by HM the King and in the presence of HH Sheikh Naser.

The University is organizing an international conference on sustainable futures in association with LSBU from the 26-27 November 2017 under the patronage of HE the Minister for Education. It is really pleasing that we have received a good number of abstracts from many countries including UK, Australia, South Africa, Nigeria, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and many others. This will make the conference truly international and raises the university's profile regionally and internationally.

I would like to conclude this edition by reminding colleagues that students' recruitment depends largely on words of mouth. It is vital for all of us to use our personal networks to promote our University in order to achieve the target students' numbers.

## MEETING WITH BAPCO

On the 1st August, the Chairman of the BOTs, Professor Waheeb Al-Khaja and the President of the University Prof. Ghassan Aouad, hosted an introductory meeting with General Manager of Human Resources Administration affairs of Bahrain petrochemical company (Bapco), Mr. Abdul Raouf Almezza and Mr. Mohammed Hussain Haji Ali, In order to strengthen the mutual relationships among them. The meeting included ways of enhancing joint cooperation and extending bridges of communication between the University and Bapco particularly with new internationally hosted programmes, constructively with the company activities. Furthermore, to discuss opportunities for collaboration between Students and the company.



In addition to the meeting, Mrs. Ruqaya Mohsin, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Mr. Abdullah Alkhaja, Director of the Department of Administrative and Financial Affairs carried out demonstrative tour with the both company members illustrating the University state of the art facilities.

## GOING GLOBAL

Part of the Strategic marketing plan to improve the overseas student recruitment and raise the awareness of the University international programmes.

On the 2nd of August, The Directorate of Marketing and Public Affairs Acting office Manager Mr. Abdulhameed Baqi visited the Atlas Agency for Educational Consultancy

in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Dammam area to introduce the University specialties and the new Programmes of the College of Engineering in collaboration with the London South Bank University in addition to the Business Studies, Accounting and Finance Programmes in cooperation with Cardiff Metropolitan University.





The meeting was attended by Agency Branch Manager Mr. Ahmed Alameri and Ms. Samara. Considering close long term partnership as direct recruitment vendor.

## **POLICY OF THE WEEK**

### **Students at Risk**

The University wishes that all of its students make satisfactory progress toward their degree objectives, and achieve academic success. However in certain situations students might not be able to cope with the academic requirements of their program. If a situation arises where a student has special circumstances that make it impossible to complete a normal course load, the student must meet with their Academic Advisor to discuss the circumstances.

- I. The university will identify students who are at risk of not being able to meet their academic commitments.
- II. The university will support all students in achieving their full academic potential at the university.
- III. The university will ensure that students who are at potential risk are identified early and informed about the help and support available to them.
- IV. The university will assist students, who fall below the minimum academic requirements at the university, through counseling and academic advisors.

#### **1. Classification of Students at risk:**

- I. The students will enter a period of Academic Probation or Default if they are unable to sustain the desired GPA or the minimum GPA requirements for their programs.
  - a. Bachelor's Program minimum requirements:
    - i. Minimum GPA requirement is 60% to be eligible for graduation.
    - ii. If the students overall GPA is below 50% then the student is dismissed from the program, except for the admission semester and the transfer semester between programs in the university.
  - b. Master's Program minimum requirements:
    - i. Minimum GPA requirement is 75%.
    - ii. If a student's score in a course is below 70%, then the student is asked to repeat the course.
- II. Further Details regarding the Academic Probation and Academic Warning can be found in the Students at Risk Policy.

#### **2. Registration for students at risk is described below:**

- i. The Deanship of Admissions and Registration prepares a list of students with low GPA (less than 62%).

- ii. The SIS system Locks the records of students with low GPA (less than 60%).
- iii. The students with low GPA (less than 60%) are notified by the Deanship of Admissions and Registration and advised to seek counsel from their academic advisors in order to unlock their records.
- iv. Students are directed by their academic advisors to choose and register courses appropriate to their study plan through SIS system.
- v. Students with GPA 60% and above are directed by their academic advisors to choose and register courses appropriate to their study plan through SIS system.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence*

*Helen Keller*

Happy Reading

