

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 50th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.



In this issue, I will be addressing the issue of professionalism and high ethics in providing a “second to none experience” to our students. Professionalism is associated with a code of behavior and a belief system that define how academics and administrators act to assist our students in achieving a memorable learning experience. Professionalism will help our students develop strong interpersonal skills including courtesy and respect and high work ethic that motivate them to behave in a professional way. In addition, it will help them develop strong communication skills that will help them in the market place to cope with a challenging competitive business environment. We need to be seen as role models for our students in order to produce professional graduates that they will become our best ambassadors.

Education/Teaching, by its nature, is seen as a top profession. It is our duty to unlock our students’ abilities and educate them for a better future. We can do this through motivation, respect, and trust which are the most important ingredients for success. We need to make our students feel that they are our sons and daughters and that their successes are important for us. Our professional behavior and parental attitude will help them build up the confidence needed to face problems in real life.

The biggest satisfaction we get as educators is to see our students enjoy their learning experience culminating in the greatest joy of their graduation ceremonies. As you are aware, our graduation ceremony is only 10 days away and we should all be there to celebrate our Students’ achievements.

Professionalism should cover the whole life cycle from recruiting and admitting our students until graduation and including the period they are studying with us. We should treat them as adults and ensure that they feel that they are responsible citizens. We need to keep reminding them about professionalism, ethics, integrity and values. Leading by example is the best way to demonstrate these important traits.

A WORKSHOP ON UNIVERSITY RANKING AND SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING

On 12 October, the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies conducted a workshop on University Ranking and Scientific publishing.



Delivering the presentation, Prof. Mahmoud Abdel-Aty, Acting Dean of Research and Graduate Studies provided information to staff on opportunities and ways to help the University increase its national and international ranks through publishing research papers in international journals and adding the full information of staff in the correct place, i.e. the international databases such as google scholar or research gate. Speaking on the particular importance of using google scholar as a reference, Prof. Mahmoud Abdel-Aty emphasized that during the next period of classification, it is necessary to utilize the experience and technical capabilities of the University's staff like "high h-index authors and authors of large number of citations", which help the visibility of the University.

At the end of the workshop, comprehensive discussions took place and feedback and recommendations were received by Dr. Hussein Khasharmeh, the Vice-Dean of Scientific Research and Graduate Studies and Wafa Farooq, the Secretary of the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies.

RED ARROWS AIR SHOW AND DINNER AT BRITISH EMBASSY



On Sunday 8 October, The President and Dean of Students Affairs attended the Red Arrows Air Show hosted by the British Embassy at the Ritz Carlton.

On Tuesday 10 October, The President and Dean of Students Affairs attended a dinner hosted by HE the British Ambassador to Bahrain at his Residence.

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION

On Wednesday 18 October, the Deanship of Students Affairs is organizing the election for 2017/2018 Student Council. In total, we have 24 candidates to fill in 15 seats, a big increase on last year.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Maryam Almerbati

Position: Administrator in HR Department

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

I am 24 years old, married.

I graduated from Bahrain Polytechnic with an Accounting Bachelor degree.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

My role in HR is that I am responsible for all matters related to the academic staff members from the minute they join ASU till they leave.

I'm thankful to be in HR Department surrounded by the best heads of departments and team; all I can say is that ASU is my second family.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

I strongly believe that one day our University will be in the top rank in GCC.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

The pressure! It makes me a multitasker, as my goal is to do the most of work with efficiency in a very short period of time.

The President, VP Academic Affairs and Development and the Dean of Students Affairs addressed the candidates on Thursday 12 October in order to wish them well and to thank them for their willingness to take part in the election. The Student Council plays an important role in the development of the University and we should give them every support they need.

STUDENT FUND COMMITTEE

On Wednesday, 11 October 2017, the student fund committee chaired by Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of the University met to discuss all cases presented and



recommended by the sub-committee in order to provide fair distribution of the allocated fund between the most needy students. 54 students cases were discussed and it was agreed to support our students with a financial aid that varies according to their circumstances.

The process was based on the subcommittee's recommendations that carried out individual interviews of all 54 students that apply for the student's financial aid. All applicants needed to comply with the student financial aid policy, and provide a set of documents required to support their cases. The subcommittee runs all interviews by a panel chaired by the Dean of Student Affairs Dr Faiza Zitouni in the presence of Professor Murad Aljanabi, Mr Abdulla Alkhaja and Mr Mohammed Najjar.



Another filtration meeting was chaired Dr Mohammed Yousef, the VP of Administrative and Financial Affairs in the presence of Mr Abdul Alkhaja and Mr Mohammed Najjar to discuss in more details the financial related issues.

SEMINAR ON “MOVING FORWARD IN BUSINESS”

Prof Saad Darwish attended a seminar titled “Moving Forward in Business” which was held in BIBF on 10 October 2017.



5. Tell us about your hobbies

Drawing, traveling and doing adventure things as my current goal is Skydiving.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

I love all kind of food, but mainly Seafood and Sushi.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

I am a visual person; I don't like reading as much as watching. But currently I'm reading the University Handbook and Bahrain labor law.

8. Final words

“Work hard in silence, let success make the noise”.

Dr. Ilene Agana, from REEM Management Consultancy, who is an Entrepreneur and an Educator was the speaker at the Seminar. She presented the urgent need of revisiting the Business Plan and evaluating the business performance. Considering it as the roadmap to move forward in business, the entrepreneurs were encouraged to conduct regular schedule of reviewing their business plan and find the areas where they have grown.

ASU PARTICIPATE IN “BREST CANCER AWARENESS MARATHON”



On behalf of ASU, the Community Engagement Office and Deanship of Student Affairs, at the generous invitation of the Bahrain Cancer Society, participated in the walking festival that was held in Bahrain Bay on the occasion of the World Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The gathering to establish the marathon started at 3:00 pm and the walk began at 4:00pm. A number of ASU staff and students participated in this event that included a huge number of participants from public and private sectors, institutes and organizations, and volunteers.



OUTCOME-BASED BENCHMARK WORK SESSION AT ASU

On Thursday 12 October, ASU conducted a work session with its consultant (SOLO Partners) on the topic of programme benchmarks. The session was attended by all the Deans and Vice Deans in addition to a number of programme coordinators and the QAAC Director.



Presenting a first session in a series of upcoming hands-on applied workshops, this session was an opportunity to present the benchmark exercise not only as one of the requirements from BQA for programme reviews, but also as a powerful tool to actually solve our own challenges and issues through formal exchange and knowledge-sharing with other similar institutions.

The objective is to design a sound methodology for outcome-based benchmark and apply it to a number of pilot programmes and then generalize it throughout the university.

Ultimately, ASU will become a reference in this field being the first Higher Education institution in Bahrain to establish full-fledged benchmarks for its programmes as envisioned by BQA, which no other institution has achieved so far.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK SESSION, UPDATED INSTITUTIONAL KPIS

On Monday 9 October, ASU conducted a work session with its consultant (SOLO Partners) on its reviewed strategic plan and institutional KPIs. This comes in the context of ASU's efforts to review and update its strategic 2015-2020 plan mid-way of its implementation.



The session was held to crown the efforts of the University as it held many previous sessions that started during the second half of last academic year and continued during the current one. These consultations included the key stakeholders of the University including its management staff, a number of Academic staff, Student representatives, and representatives of the employers and the business community.

The main results of all these efforts are an updated set of institutional KPIs that are more current and more reflective of the University's strategic direction. These KPIs will be included in the Strategy Booklet Draft that will be submitted to the Board of Trustees that will take place on Wednesday 18 October 2017 for approval. Once approved and finalized, the document will be disseminated University-wide and the Governance and Strategic Planning Unit will organize workshops about the updated institutional KPIs and their measurements.

STUDENT COUNCIL CANDIDATE MEETING FOR ITS 11TH CYCLE

On Thursday 12 October 2017, The Deanship of Student Affairs held a meeting with the student council candidates for its 11th cycle with the aim to welcome them to the Deanship and explain to them the rules and regulations of the elections. In addition, a draw was done for the candidates on the dates of the elections campaign that will take place on Monday, 16 and Tuesday 17 October 2017.



The University President, Professor Ghassan Aouad, who attended the meeting, was very happy with the big number of candidates that elected themselves this year and gave advice and directions to the potential candidates, as he is always keen and dedicated in encouraging and supporting to our students.

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

BOT Meeting 18 October

Graduation Ceremony 25 October



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Once you realize that you're in something that you've always wanted and you don't want to lose it, you behave differently. And that means the integrity, the professionalism, and knowing what's right from wrong and still making choices that you probably wouldn't have made.” **Paul Anka**

Happy Reading

