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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 9th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.



I would like to start this edition by re-emphasizing the importance of adopting students centered approach for all our activities in the University. Students should be at the heart of all what we do from the moment we recruit them until graduation and beyond. We should provide them with the best learning experience and we should ensure that our curriculum enables them to be equipped with the right skills to enter the market place once they completed their studies.

Last week the President attended a meeting for Universities Presidents in Bahrain with Dr Abdul Ghani Alshuwaikh, HEC Secretary General. The following is a summary of the main issues discussed at the meeting.

1. Meetings with universities presidents should be regular (every 6 to 8 weeks)
2. One of the top priorities for government is HE and Scientific Research including clear bylaws, graduates meeting market demands, research, staff recruitment and relationship between private sector and HE
3. Partnership with HEC
4. Importance of students achieving learning outcomes
5. Adoption of students focused approach
6. Bylaws should be sent in Arabic and English to the HEC approved by University Council. Submission date is end of March taking into account government policies, HEC bylaws, HE and Research Strategies. Legal translation should be done by recognized body.
7. Internships: to have an internship unit at university level with college coordinators involved to achieve best learning outcomes and academic programmes that equip graduates with skills that help them find jobs (high priority to HEC).



- A specialized unit for internships, with supervision, achievements and guidelines to provide flexibility. Statistics about organizations involved in internships should be prepared as well as partnerships with private sector.
8. Unified student file **الملف الموحد**:
- Highlights were on Admissions and Registration with regards to unified students' files and accepted students and expected to graduate. It is not permitted to graduate students who don't meet the criteria for graduation. Students should be expelled if they study for more than 8 years.
 - HE number, رقم التعليم العالي, Electronic signature التوقيع الالكتروني were other topics discussed.
 - ASU satisfied the above, as it was the only university mentioned in the meeting to fulfill the above. I was really proud of this achievement.
9. Scientific Research:
- HEC stressed on the importance of scientific research, and partnership with private sector and government departments. To organize workshops on scientific research, have infrastructure for research, labs, and focus on applied research in areas such as sustainability and infrastructures are other key points discussed.
 - Expenditure and guidelines: 3% from of total revenue: I encouraged them to look at UNESCO and FEC models, collaboration between universities in Bahrain to support research, units or centers specialized in research.
10. Accreditation: The HEC will write to us in due course
11. Staff development and a specialized unit: HEC held 3 workshops for HEA training that included 70 staff from all universities who became HEA fellows.
- 2% of the total revenue should be allocated for staff development. Universities should host programmes that benefit from HEA fellowships. It is a reflective practice, for which HEA fellows help Accreditation.
12. Stopped programmes: quality issues or breaking of bylaws
13. QQA:
- Follow ups of decisions after programme review visits, programmes with new improvement plans.
 - No confidence or limited confidence: visit from HEC, weakness points, plan to improve programmes. Limited confidence, should put a plan to improve the programme, universities should provide improvement plans.
 - QQA and HEC consulting each other.
 - Limited confidence programmes risk to become in a no confidence state.



14. MOCs and MOUs: we need to seek permission from HEC before signing MOUs with academic partners



Last week we hosted an open day for students' recruitment and we attended the Alayam sponsored book exhibition under the Patronage of HH Sheikh Mohamed Bin Mubarak where our library had a stand in this exhibition.

On 30 December, the President and many colleagues from the University attended the Nass Horse Racing Festival.



Over the next 2 weeks, we have to focus our efforts on the preparation of the review visit for our limited confidence programmes on the 11 and 12 January and from 5 January Prof Newton will be with us for a week to help us with this preparation.

I would like to conclude this edition by wishing you and your families, our University and Kingdom a great year in 2017.

AUC SEVENTH MEETING CONFERENCE



Dr. Ammar Jalamneh has participated in the Seventh meeting for the members of the Arab Union Catalog AUC, under the slogan (AUC in its new phase: a knowledge platform services for Arab libraries) held At King Abdul Aziz Public Library in Riyadh, in the period from 4 to 8 December, 2016.

Dr. Jalamneh attended many workshops that were held in the conference such as (Arab Digital Library: aspirations and requirements), (Financial solutions for Arab libraries), (Indexing printed materials according to WAM rules (RDA) standard Mark 21), (Cloud solutions for Arab libraries) and (Digital content in libraries, archives and museums). All workshops took place At King Abdul Aziz Public Library in Riyadh. Dr. Jalamneh presented the development of Applied Science University's library during the previous five years after joining the AUC.





ACCESSING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FROM OUTSIDE THE CAMPUS

ASU's Library in cooperation with the Information and Communication Technology Department and under the guidance of the Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs Dr. Mohamed Yousif, has completed the procedures for the use of global electronic resources from outside the campus.

Electronic resources can now be accessed by all students and academic staff from within and outside the university through the following link ezproxy.asu.edu.bh. Members of the university can access these sources through the same user name and password to enter the Student Registration System (SIS). This procedure is one of the goals of library management to facilitate the resources access and support scientific research process



THE ANNUAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF SOCIAL MEDIA CLUB IN BAHRAIN



Dr. Mohammad Al-Hamami, Manager of Community Engagement office and Assistant Professor in Management Information Systems Department participated in the annual consultative meeting of Social Media Club in Bahrain to evaluate the previous performance of the year 2016 and the preparations for the New Year 2017.

Around forty five individual from different disciplines participated in the meeting that was held at the Capital Club on 24 December 2016.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”

Winston Churchill



Happy Reading
