



PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last week was yet another hectic one for the University. On Sunday, 14 February, we took part in the celebrations of the National Action Charter attended by His Majesty the King and organized by the Ministry of Education and the Higher Education Council. The President and on behalf of the University received a recognition award for our participation from HE the Minister of Education, Dr Majed Al-Nuaimi. The President accompanied by Dr Assem, Mr Mohamed Yousif and Ustaza Ruqaya took part in this event assisted by Mr Bahaa, Mr Mustafa, Mr Qassim and some students.



On Monday, 15 February, the President and Dr Assem attended a presentation at the Royal University for Women delivered by Prof Riyad Hamzah on Strategies for Higher Education in Bahrain. The key messages from that lecture were related to the importance of quality of education, future opportunities in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), importance of scientific research, entrepreneurship and internationalisation. Prof Mazen Jumaa, the President of RUW, spearheaded the event.

On Tuesday, 16 February, the President gave a keynote speech on Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Arab Region to the World Junior Entrepreneurship Forum organised by the Origin Group and under the patronage of HE, the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Mr Zayed Al-Zayani. The event was attended by Prof Saad and Ustaza Ruqaya and the University hosted the forum on its second day Wednesday the 17th.

On 17 February, the President, Dr Assem, Dr Jamal, Dr Hussein, Dr Mohamed Atteia and Dr Yasser attended a symposium on enhancing standards organised by the NAQQAET. The key messages from that symposium were related to new ways of teaching, assessment and graduate attributes.

On 18 February, an orientation day for new staff, with a welcoming speech from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof Waheeb Al-Khaja, was organised by Dr Assem, Mr Mohammed Yousif, Ustaz Abdullah, Ustaz Maan and Ustaz Rakan from HR with great help from Marketing and Public Affairs, especially Ustaza Ruqaya who acted as an MC for the event. In the afternoon of that day, the first meeting of the graduation preparation committee took part. The graduation ceremony is scheduled for 2 June 2016, please keep it in your diary.

What's New?





ASU PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Prof Ghassan Aouad, President, delivered a keynote address at the Junior World Entrepreneurship Forum which was held on 16 February at Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel. The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani inaugurated the forum which was held for the first time in Bahrain within the Arabian Gulf and Middle East countries.



The forum was organised by the Origin Group in cooperation with the UNIDO, the British Council and the Applied Science University. The aim of the event was to overcome the current challenges in the region that affect all segments of the society by introducing youth to entrepreneurship.

Prof Saad Darwish attended the forum and contributed to the arrangements with the British Council and Origin Group to host the forum the second day at ASU.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HR SYSTEM: CONTRIBUTION TO MEET HEC

The new HR & payroll system has been successfully implemented. The payroll for December 2015 and January 2016 have been performed with the new system without a hitch.



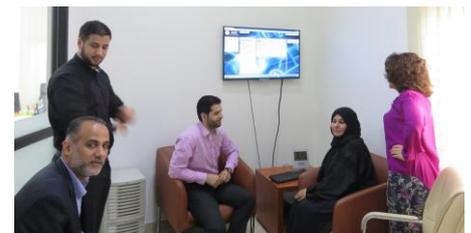
More efficiency and zero errors in handling employees' data is one of the HR Department targets.

Moreover, as the new system is linked automatically to the main other systems of the University, there is now less duplication in data entry and more accuracy in data storage.

Last but not the least, the New HR system being implemented, is contributing to meet the accreditation indicator 6.7 "Comprehensive administrative records must be organized and stored efficiently, easily accessed and used effectively".

The next phase of the HR system will be developed later and will consist of opening the system to the employees to allow them to view with total confidentiality their payslips and to request leave, loans, visa, tickets, etc.

This task has been performed under the guidance of Mr. Mohammad Yousif, VP Admin and Finance and Community Engagement and thanks to the cooperation of employees from the HR & Finance Directorate headed by Mr. Abdullah Al Khaja (Mr. Bilal Enanbeh, Mr. Rakan Al Qaisi) and the cooperation of Mr. Maan Nasser Head of Administrative Affairs. And special thanks to Shadia Abualasal from ICT & KM Directorate who has analyzed the needs, developed the system, tested it, trained the end users and technically implemented the system.





ACADEMIC STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

ASU Academic Staff Development Unit held a workshop split into two sessions on 11 February for the academic staff. The first session was about Making Learning Happen, which was delivered by Yvonne Johnson. The purpose of the discussion session was for faculty to



reflect on the writer's ideas about how students learn. The second session focused on Reflective Writing, delivered by Garth Johnson. The purpose of this session was to assist faculty with the reflective writing component needed to complete their Accounts of Professional Practice, which is required for the application for HEA Fellow status.



THE DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEWS FOURTH FORUM

An ASU team made of five academic staff attended the Directorates of Higher Education Reviews Fourth Forum on 'Enhancing Academic Standards in Higher Education'. The DHR forum took place on 17 February 2016 at the Ramee Grand Hotel, Manama. Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Dr Jamal Sultan, Dr Husein Bani Issa, Dr Mohammed Atteia and Dr Yasser Al Tayeb actively participated in the event and shared their views on the topics under discussion. The forum was a golden opportunity to enhance our understanding and knowledge of four essential areas for better higher education:

1. Quality enhancement of teaching
2. The assessment process in university education
3. Graduate attributes from hope to reality
4. Benchmarking and quality enhancement



ASU PARTICIPATES IN CELEBRATING THE BAHRAIN ACTION CHARTER

ASU participated in the MOE's celebration of the 15th anniversary of the National Action Charter under the patronage of his excellency Dr Majed Bin Al Al-Nuaim, the Minister of Education. The universities participated in the caravan fair as part of the Higher Education institutions in Bahrain. The university decorated vehicle was amongst the best in the fair and reflected the university's commitment and sense of belonging and belief in the Charter. Prof. Ghassan Aouad, Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Mr Mohammed Yousif, Ms Ruqaya Mohsin and the team who participated in the event were so happy to have had the chance to express their delight in being there and in meeting and shaking the hands of his highness, the King of Bahrain, Shaikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa.





NEW STAFF INDUCTION

ASU has welcomed and inducted its new academic and administrative staff on Thursday, 18 February. The event started with a warm welcome by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Waheed Alkhaja, followed by an inspiring presentation by Prof. Ghassan Aouad, the President of ASU. Prof. Ghassan shared with the new staff the vision, strategic plan and opportunities available at the university. The induction also included an introduction to the VP Academic Affairs and Development office and the VP Administration, Finance and Community Engagement office. Further introduction was given to Research, Library services, Staff Development and IT by respective staff. The event was closed with a light lunch.



THE KPI INSTITUTE WORKSHOP

Acting VP Academic Affairs and Development, Dr Assem Al-Hajj, acting VP Administration, Finance and Community Engagement, Mr Mohammed Yousif and the Head of Governance and Strategic Planning, Ms Monia Mensi attended the KPI Institute workshop on the 14 February 2016. The workshop was aimed at performance improvement for the higher education sector. It was a show of commitment from HEC towards increasing HEI's performance. The workshop focused the following issues:

- Trends in performance management and KPI in higher education
- Challenges in working with KPIs
- Means for understanding KPIs and selecting them
- Using KPIs to improve performance



The workshop took place at the regional Centre for ICT at the Gulf Executive Suites, at the Gulf Hotel.

REMINDER OF THE WEEK:

THE INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION STANDARDS (HEC)



AREA 5: Economy and Society Impact (3 Standards)

The institution's strategy must recognize the importance of promoting entrepreneurship and provide appropriate academic, physical and financial resources to support this (4 KIs)

1. The institution's strategic plan must demonstrate a commitment to promoting entrepreneurship and enterprise across the institution.



2. The institution must have or be developing policies and mechanisms which will facilitate funding for graduate and staff enterprise and provide appropriate facilities such as incubator support.
3. The strategy must demonstrate an awareness of and commitment to the Kingdom's employability agenda in that it encourages links with industry, encourages entrepreneurship and focuses on the knowledge economy.
4. The institution must ensure coverage in its curricula of the skills and competencies required by employers so as to prepare students for entry into the world of work. Views of employers must inform the review process.

The institution must proactively engage with the local and regional business community (5 KIs)

1. Employers must be encouraged to forge links with the institution so as to provide opportunities for internships and on-the-job training.
2. Students must be made aware of the current job market and provided with opportunities to engage with prospective employers.
3. The institution must engage with the wider community, such as employers and its alumni, in a formal and systematic manner in order to obtain feedback on the relevance of its curriculum and to identify areas for development and improvement.
4. The institution must collect data on the destination of its graduates to inform and improve its relationships with the world of work and its engagement with the Kingdom's employability agenda.
5. Where appropriate, students must be given the opportunity to attain relevant workplace experience.

The institution must demonstrate its commitment to community service and engagement (5 KIs)

1. Institutional strategy must take into account the Kingdom's national indicators and demonstrate a commitment to community and social outreach and lifelong learning.
2. The institution must demonstrate that it engages in community outreach and the provision of mutually beneficial services.
3. The institution must encourage its staff and students to engage with the local community around it through cultural, social and community service activities.
4. There must be a dedicated team which has responsibility for the institution's work in community service.
5. The institution must produce an annual report detailing the community services it has been engaged in.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

When the winds of change blow, some people build walls, and others build windmills

Chinese proverb



Enjoy Reading
