

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 11th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.



Last week, we had our review for the limited confidence programmes in the College of Administrative Sciences. Many thanks to all colleagues, students and external stakeholders for all their hard work. We have demonstrated during the review that we are a coherent team and we do care collectively about our University and students. Let's now hope to achieve a full confidence. I listed below my own observations about lessons that can be learnt.

1. Course portfolios should be complete and up to the highest standard. Course portfolios are the starting point of any review and will create a good impression of the course and programmes if they are done properly. We have a checklist at the QAAC Centre and everybody should be following it properly.
2. Plagiarism: staff and students should be familiar with the plagiarism policy. There could be some similarities in submitted work up to an acceptable figure which is not specified in our policy, but international practices mention 15-20% because of the use of references and quotations of previous work. With regards to plagiarized work, the tolerance is 0%.
3. Internal and external moderation: we have a clear policy and should be strictly followed. In addition, external reviewer/examiner should be used to sample assessed work.
4. Benchmarking: we have a clear policy, but our benchmarking should be performed rigorously to check our students' performance meet acceptable practices in the subject area.
5. Academic misconduct: staff and students should understand this policy and how it is applied.
6. Use of learning resources and Moodle in particular: all staff and students should be using Moodle in order to help our students with their independent learning.



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7. Mapping: Outcomes based teaching and learning which is well established should be adopted by our university. There are various ways for mapping including:

CILOS and PILOS

CILOS and Graduate Attributes

CILOS and Teaching and Learning Activities

CILOS and Assessment Methods



A dedicated and well-resourced Teaching and Learning Centre should be established to research international practices which can help the improvement of our teaching and learning activities and to ensure that our students are achieving the right learning outcomes

8. Staff recruitment, promotion, appraisal and development: these areas are important in every review and should be well understood by all staff.

9. English support: the various improvements to our English courses should be well documented and communicated to all staff

10. Library: should be well resourced, and all references should be indexed properly. The available databases should be well understood by all staff and students

11. Surveys: all surveys including exit, graduate, employer, alumni, and students' satisfaction should be properly analyzed with clear actions

12: Committees: all committees especially department council, college council, and university council should be meeting according to a specified calendar, with clear minutes and actions

13. Resource tracking: we should have clear reports about library usage, Moodle usage, SIS, admissions, etc.

14: Admissions: all staff and students should understand admissions requirements



15. Website: should be up to date in both Arabic and English

My very final observation about the review process is related to having a clear conscience when we do our jobs. The senior team can give all the resources and support needed, but at the end of day what counts is what's happening in the classrooms and what's inside the course portfolios. We have been trusted to deliver the best learning experience to our students. Colleagues could achieve this easily by developing clear lesson plans and by updating their course syllabus and course portfolios which will help in delivering exciting teaching at the right level in order to help our students achieve their learning outcomes through reliable and rigorous assessment methods.

If this is done professionally, I am confident that we will have stress free reviews through reliable systems, policies, processes, and good practices in teaching and learning. It is beyond my imagination that a PhD or a Masters holder cannot achieve this. However having said all of that, we are fully committed to staff training and development in order to help our colleagues improve their competencies and skills which will ultimately help our students achieve their learning outcomes.



This week, the BOT will meet on the 17 January to check our progress against KPIs and other reliable measures. In addition, this week we will have a workshop on student employability which will help our students in becoming more employable and this is in line with accreditation requirements.

Our priority over the next few weeks should be on students recruitment, NQF work, and to continue our work on institutional accreditation and improvements to our programs in Arts and Science.

CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING & DECISION MAKING

The Training Centre delivered a highly interactive workshop that introduced a variety of creative solution generation and decision making techniques. Participant developed skills necessary to analyse a problem, generating creative alternative solutions and deciding which solution most closely matches a specific need.



LIBRARY'S DIRECTOR PUBLISHED RESEARCH

A paper titled “Documentation and Citation of resources in Legal Studies” by Library’s Director Dr. Ammar Jalamneh was published in the “Egyptian Magazine for Legal and Economic Studies”, a refereed journal –ISSN 23569301- in its 8th issue on December 2016. The research focused on the importance of documentation and citation of resources.



“ملهمون لاجلكم مجتمعون” GATHERING



Under the patronage of H. E. Professor Ghassan Aouad, the University President, the Community Engagement Office at Applied Science University hosted the biggest gathering for trainers in Bahrain called “ملهمون لاجلكم مجتمعون”.

The gathering was organized by the Social Media Club in Bahrain in collaboration with Bahrain Society for Training and Development, and with the support of Legend for Marketing Consultancy.

In addition to Professor Ghassan Aouad and Dr Mohammad Al-Hamami, the Manager of Community Engagement Office; Dr Assem Al-Hajj the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr Faiza Zitouni the Dean of Student Affairs and Evening Studies, and many other academic and administrative staff and a number of students and graduates attended the gathering to support the event.





Eighteen trainers from different disciplines participated in the gathering, and around two hundred twenty people from the Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait had attended the event, and the hashtag of the event “#ملهمون_لاجلكم_مجتمعون” was trended for two days at “Twitter” and “Instagram” in Kingdom of Bahrain and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



The gathering was held at Applied Science University in Abdullah Nass Hall on Saturday, 7 January 2017.

WORKSHOP ON PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN ACADEMIC PRACTICE (PCAP)

The second PCAP workshop organized by HEC Bahrain and HEA UK was held during the period 11-14 Jan 2017 at UNESCO building Bahrain Training Institute Compound Isa Town where 70 faculty members from all private Universities in Bahrain attended the workshop.



7 faculty members from ASU attended the workshop: Dr Houriya Aldeeb, Dr Ammar Al-Sammarræe, Dr Ahmed Azzam Elmasri, Mr Rashed Al-Rasheed, Mr Ammar Yousif, Mrs. Noora Musalam, Mrs Fajer Shams.

The third and the last PCAD workshop session will be held in March 2017, thereafter the attendees will be qualified to receive a “Professional Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education” from HEA and HEC Bahrain. In addition, the attendees will be able to apply directly to HEA on line to submit their application in order to get HEA Fellow academic status.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“You cannot have a positive life and a negative mind.”

Joyce Meyer

Happy Reading

