

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 13th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.



I would like to start this issue by reminding our colleagues that their course portfolios for the last semester should have been completed by now and according to the QAAC template and they should have been produced up to the highest standards.

As I mentioned many times before, course portfolios are the starting points for any accreditation or programme reviews activities. They also reflect the quality of staff and students' work for a particular semester. The production of course portfolios should be seen as a systematic process to document course specifications, assessment, course expectations and reflections that help students achieve their learning outcomes. This is vital from a quality assurance and accreditation perspectives. It is a relatively simple process, but it should be done with care, dedication and professionalism. At the end of the day, we are talking about our students' futures. Soon, we will be auditing all course portfolios. The production of good course portfolios is a basic requirement in all universities.

On 23 January, the Chairman of the BOTs and the President together with senior colleagues from across the University received a big delegation from the University of Prince Songkla in Thailand headed by their



President to discuss opportunities for collaboration in areas like research and staff and students exchange. The delegation toured the University after an overview presentation by the President about our University and its future plans. The delegation expressed their admiration for the quality of our work and our campus.



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On the evening of 23 January, the President delivered a lecture on "leaders: are they born or made?" to an audience of over 60 professionals from various sectors in Bahrain. I was delighted to see around 20 of our staff attending. This lecture was organised by the Bahrain Society for Training and Development.



On the evening of 24 January, the President attended a private dinner at HE the British Ambassador's residence which was hosted to honour the presence of Ms. Suzanne Jones, Head of Science and Innovation in the UK. Many influential figures including the CEO of the Supreme Council for Environment, Head of UKTI and Managing Director of Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) were present at this dinner.

Last week, we received many visitors including the Founder & President of Steppingstone, Jean (John) Nicolai and Director Information Technology of Gulf Air, Dr. Jassim Haji in order to explore opportunities for collaboration.



On 26 January, the Chairman of the BOT and the President hosted an event to recognize the contribution of Dr Abdul Karim Alwan to the University's development. Unfortunately, Dr Abdul Karim is leaving us to return to his job in Jordan. He will be missed by everybody around the University, especially staff and students. A speech was made by the Chairman of The BOT which acknowledged Dr Abdul Karim's contributions. This was followed by few words from the President, the Dean of Law, Head of Public Law, and a very emotional speech by Dr Abdul Karim which came from the heart acknowledging the support he received from Prof Waheeb over the last 8 years and the President in the last 2 years and expressing his loyalty to the University and his sadness that he will be leaving us soon.



On the evening of 26 January and under the Patronage of HE Sheikh Mohamed Bin Isa Al Khalifa, Chairman of Tamkeen, and represented by the CE Dr Ibrahim Janahi, the University hosted the 2nd RYLA, the Rotary Youth Leadership Award organised by the various Rotary Clubs in Bahrain. The President welcomed the participants to the event and wished them well for the 2 days activity that was taking place at our premises. Many staff and students attended the opening ceremony of this event.





The second semester officially started and teaching will begin this week. It is our duty to provide our students with the best learning experience through care, exciting delivery of teaching and by helping them to achieve better. The students are our sons and daughters and we should look after them and treat them like adults in order to produce a generation of responsible graduates and citizens.

I would like to conclude this edition by offering and on behalf all of you our sincere condolences to our colleague and VP Admin, Finance and Community Engagement, Dr Mohammed Yousif, for the sad loss of his father, may God bless his soul and send him to heaven.

VP FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT A GUEST ON BAHRAIN TV SHOW AL-RA'Y

On Tuesday 17 January, Dr Assem Al-Hajj, VP for Academic Affairs and Development was a guest on Bahrain TV show Al-Ra'y. Dr Assem was invited to discuss the impact of school students' performance on University intake following a recent report by QA on Bahrain school students' performance in both English and Arabic languages. The discussion focused on the impact on university recruitment and what solutions universities may have in order to mitigate the situation.



NQF MAPPING WORKSHOP

Under the leadership of Dr. Radwan Kharabsheh, Director of the QAAC, the Centre organised an NQF Mapping Workshop on Thursday, 26 January 2017. The workshop was conducted by an expert on NQF. It is a series of workshops that will be conducted during the course of this academic year 2016/2017. This workshop targeted the Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) programme, since it will be the first programme undergoing the actual mapping process.



The workshop was attended by approximately 25 people. Apart from faculty members under the BBA programme, selected faculty members from other colleges were also invited to attend the workshop. The Vice President for Academic Affairs and Development, Dr. Assem Al-Hajj also attended the workshop showing his continuous support.

The workshop was comprised of three parts:

- First part dealt with NQF in general – Descriptors and levels.
- Second part dealt with the actual mapping process using examples presented during the workshop.
- Third part dealt with managing the process of NQF in ASU.

NQF Mapping has already started in ASU and is commencing with the BBA programme, but will be achieved incrementally by all departments in all colleges during this academic year 2016/2017. An expert on NQF will be joining the 'NQF Mapping Group' in one of its mapping exercises to ensure the adoption of best practices and the effectiveness of the mapping process in ASU.



A POEM TO THE KING

A poem entitled "Free you are free Hamad" delivered by Dr Murad Abdallah Aljanabi was dedicated to his majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.



CHALLENGER TEAM VISIT

On 19 January 2017, Dr. Thabet Al Nabulsi, CEO and Founder of Challenger Team visited Applied Science University in order to design trainings programmes tailored to the needs of students and staff. It is unique opportunity for ASU in terms of development and expansion as well it plays major role being competitive with other universities.



REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Signing of MOC with Cardiff Met, 9 February 2017 at 2:00pm, Abdulla Nass Auditorium.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If somebody offers you an amazing opportunity and you're not sure you can do it, say yes - then learn how to do it later"

Richard Branson

Happy Reading
