

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

5 MARCH 2017 – VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 18

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 18th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.



Last week, we received a letter from the HEC informing us that we need to submit our accreditation application within a month. All documents including university catalogue, programme handbooks, staff and student's handbook have to be submitted in English. It is worth noting that the accreditation visiting panel will attend classes and observe the quality of teaching. The web site will be scrutinized during the application stage. We need to exert exceptional efforts over the next few weeks and we need to work as a team. Many thanks in advance for your corporation and support; we need it to achieve institutional accreditation, which will open many doors for us as a University.

On 28 February, the Chairman of the BOT, the President, the VP Academic Affairs and Development, and colleagues from the QAAC attended the opening ceremony of the INQAAHE conference hosted by the Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA) titled "between collaboration and competition: The Promises and Challenges for Quality Assurance of Higher Education". The patron of the event was HH the Deputy Prime Minister, Sheikh Mohamed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa. Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Dr Nympah Joseph and Dr Roy Tumaneng presented three papers at the conference. This conference addressed the role of quality assurance authorities in ensuring the delivery of good quality education locally, regionally and internationally.

On 2 March, the President attended the regional conference on quality assurance of the UNESCO, INQAAHE and BQA where HE the Minister for Education delivered an inspirational keynote address about the historical development of education and higher education in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the important role of quality assurance.

On the evening of 1 March, the President, Dean of Students Affairs and Dr Arbab from DBA, and our colleagues from LSBU attended an event at HE the British Ambassador's residence to celebrate St David's Day (Welsh Day).

On the evening of 2 March, the President, President's Office Director, and Dr Islam Obeidat and eleven of our students from Arts and Design attended a lecture about Italian Design by prominent Italian Architect, Francesco Librizzi, on "Archetype, Stereotype, Prototype". The event was hosted by HE the Italian Ambassador and held at the Bahrain National Museum.



On 26 February, HR and Admin at the University organized an Induction Day for new Academic and Admin Staff. The Chairman of the BOT, the President, and VP Academic Affairs & Development, and many other colleagues delivered presentations to introduce new colleagues to

the University's policies, strategies and facilities.

Last week a group of senior colleagues from LSBU visited ASU and discussed ways to launch our new Engineering Programmes. Our partnership with LSBU is going from strength to strength.



This morning, Dr Sana Al Mansoori, Director of Unit for Teaching Excellence and Leadership (UTEL) at University of Bahrain met with the President and members of staff to discuss opportunities of collaboration with University of Bahrain.

This afternoon, the President had the pleasure to receive the Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia in Manama, HE Mohamed Ben Youssef where they discussed potential opportunities of collaboration.



I would like to conclude this edition by reminding colleagues once again about the importance of the institutional accreditation's task. We have to be well prepared in all eight areas of Governance, Management, Teaching and Learning, Research, Community Engagement, Students Support, Facilities and Quality Assurance. We need to provide the leadership needed to excel in all the aforementioned eight areas. The future of the University depends on achieving institutional accreditation.

DR RAMZI NEKHILI INVITED AS JUDGING COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR BAHRAIN BOURSE TRADEQUEST PROGRAMME



Dr Ramzi Nekhili, Vice Dean of the College of Administrative Sciences, was invited to serve as member of the judging committee in Bahrain Bourse's TradeQuest programme. This programme is one of Bahrain Bourse's initiatives in spreading investment awareness among school and university students, and has been a success for the past 19 years.

Dr Ramzi will be taking an active role in the programme by joining the judging committee along with the university advisors from the other universities. This will challenge the students through the variety of questions that will be asked and enhance fairness and transparency given that more judges are involved and scores are averaged.

ASIAN ROAD & PARA-CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS - BAHRAIN 2017



Students from Applied Science University contributed greatly in the event of Asian Road & Para-Cycling Championships - Bahrain 2017 as organizing volunteers that was under the patronage of H.H. Shaikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, which took place from 25 February to 4 March 2017. Mr. Thaer Ramini from the Deanship of Student Affairs supervised the event.

About 30 students from ASU volunteered in the event and contributed in various areas, including social media, photos, video montage, MC and other tasks related to the organization of the event.

Shaikh Khalid Bin Hamad Bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Chairman of Board of Directors of Bahrain

Cycling Association, highlighted that ASU' students played a great role in the success of the event; their contribution will raise the name of the Kingdom of Bahrain at international events.

STUDENT COUNCIL COMMUNICATION DESK

On 27 and 28 February 2017, the Student Council in the Deanship of Student Affairs organised a communication help desk in the main lobby at ASU with the aim to communicate with their fellow students, listen to their suggestions, complaints and provide them with the latest news and updates regarding the University's rules and regulations.



INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Ms Noora Musalam

Position: Lecturer - College of Law Manager of Career Development & Alumni Affairs Office - Deanship of Students Affairs

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

I am an ASU graduate of both bachelor's and master's degree. My bachelor's degree was in law and my master's degree was in constitutional law. I also have a diploma from the University of Bahrain in law.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

Initially I joined ASU as a Teaching and Research Assistant then I took an administrative job as Career and Development and Alumni Affairs Office Manager in the Deanship of Student Affairs. During that time I received my master's degree and I joined the faculty and became a lecturer in the College of Law specialized in the Public Law department. In addition, I am currently working on my PhD proposal in constitutional law.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

I would like to achieve both my academic and administrative job in a high quality that would meet the international standards and graduate highly qualified students.

In addition, initial information about the upcoming launch of “5 Students’ Clubs” was announced and many students are already very keen to join in.

This type of “communication desk” shows to be a success since a huge number of students were interested with the idea and showed a lot of interest, communication and engagement with the Student Council members. More of such “communication desk” will be planned for the future.

STUDENT COUNCIL ACCREDITATION MEETING



The Deanship of Student Affairs organised a meeting with the Student Council members on 23 February 2017 to convey the importance of the forthcoming University accreditation and explain their significant contribution in the accreditation process particularly in area 6 that covers student recruitment, guidance, support and progression. The long meeting

was attended by most of the Student Council members, Dr. Faiza Zitouni, Mr. Mohammed Najjar and Ms. Hadeel Bucheerei from the Deanship of Student Affairs. More of such meetings are planned to reinforce the importance of students’ contribution and to keep continuous updates and communication with our students.

PARTICIPATION IN THE FORUM HOSTED BY THE ARAB OPEN UNIVERSITY

Dr. Ali Aldadda and some students from the Political Science Department participated and represented the University in the forum titled "Citizenship and Parliamentary Culture" which was under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Mulla, Speaker of the Council of Representatives, as part of celebrations of the Kingdom sixteenth anniversary of the National Action Charter



The event was organised by the Arab Open University on February 27 2017 with the objective to emphasize the concept of citizenship, and its components and how to activate the public participation of youth in the national work.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

In the academic side, I enjoy most in dealing with students, and encourage them in doing research. I also enjoy advising students, implement new strategies with students and receive feedback from them.

In the administrative side, I like mostly communicating with graduates, helping them in getting jobs, inviting them in joining us in workshops e.g. job fair workshops, having reunion events. In addition, creating an alumni club with board of directors that is very engaging with the community; which makes me very proud of them.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

I have passion to learn, read and like adventures.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

I like all kinds of food specially seafood cuisine.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

د. سليمان الطماوي - السلطان الثلاث الدساتير العربية المعاصرة وفي الفكر السياسي الإسلامي

8. Final words

I hope the university will get the accreditation and become one of the well-known universities internationally. I would like to thank everyone who supported me and gave me confidence to become what I am right now.

A VISIT TO EDUCATION LINKS SPRING FAIR 2017

Ms. Ruqaya Mohsin, Director of Marketing and Public Affairs and Mr. Yasser Abuseneh, Manager of Training and Development Unit and Acting Office Manager of International Partnerships Office and Mr. Mustafa Alyousif visited Education Links Spring Fair 2017 on 23 February 2017 at the Sheraton Bahrain Hotel. The fair was held under the patronage of HE Shaikh Hisham bin Abdul Rahman Al Khalifa, the Governor of the Capital Governorate, and was organised by Education Links in partnership with the Ministry of Education and British Council.



The exhibition helps students and parents who want to find information about studying in the UK and USA. In addition, it assists local students who want to study overseas by providing information on the range of education options, courses and pathways. LSBU was one of the British Universities, which participated in the fair along with other universities, and Ms Aissata Edmonson the Senior International Officer of LSBU was representing the University.

SCHOOL VISITS

As part of promoting the University, Mr. Mustafa Alyousif and Mr. Abdulhameed Baqi from Marketing and Public Affairs Directorate visited Muharraq Secondary School for boys and Shaikh Isa bin Ali Secondary School for boys to introduce ASU programmes and the facilities provided by the university. The students and their parents interacted strongly during the visits and showed in the University. Furthermore, the campaign will continue until the 1st week of May to cover 50 private and public schools.



NEW STAFF INDUCTION DAY

ASU has welcomed and inducted its new academic and administrative staff on Sunday, 26 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 an introduction was given to Research, Library services, Staff Development and IT by respective staff.



REMINDERS OF THE WEEK

1. Submission of the improvement plans for Arts and Science Programmes to the BQA by 15 March, (Quality Council has to approve the submission first).
2. Submission of the Application for Institutional Accreditation to the HEC by 25 March.
3. Submission of the Bylaws in (certified English) and Arabic to the HEC by the end of March 2017.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Quality is not an act, it is a habit.”

Aristotle

Happy Reading

