

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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What's **INSIDE** this ISSUE

- Message from the President
- HEA Fellowship Updates
- Academic Integrity Seminar at the Arab Open University in Kuwait
- Support of Women Entrepreneurship
- Interview of the Week
 - Zainab Mostafa Otoom
- Reminder of the Week
- International Conference on Sustainable Futures
- Quote of the Week

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 2nd issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.

In this issue, I will be reporting on the meeting of Dr Abdul Ghani Alshuwaikh, Secretary General of the HEC with Presidents of Private Universities in Bahrain. The meeting was held on the 8 November 2017 and attended by Dr Abdul Ghani Alshuwaikh, Dr Imad Thabet, Dr Farzana AlMaraghi and Dr Manar Zaid from the HEC and Universities Presidents or their representatives. Dr Farzana reminded universities presidents that we all need to respect deadlines about staffing/HR, students including graduating students, and research expenditure records when requested by the HEC. Important issues that were raised by Dr Abdul Ghani Alshuwaikh, Secretary General of the HEC included: Scientific Research, Facilities, and Internships and Partnerships with the Private Sector. With regards to scientific research, we were reminded of the importance of using and referring to the HEC scientific research strategy that includes the goals of research and national priorities. The importance of applied and relevant research, by working with industry and government departments, was strongly highlighted. The Scientific Research Bylaws were published in the official gazette on the 19th of October and we should all be familiar with these bylaws, which address the importance of spending 3% of our income on research according to the specified criteria. The best was to spend the percentage allocated to research is to fund research projects as we clearly specified in our research-funding framework. In such projects we can allocate funds for equipment, consumables, conferences, etc. As a reminder, I have included our research framework once again that was covered in a previous issue of the News Digest.

Research

	Sustainable Development	Future IT	Economic Growth	Teaching and Learning	Women Leadership	Co-existence Tolerance, and Peace
College of Administrative Sciences						
College of Arts & Science						
College of Law						
College of Engineering						



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The following is an indicative list of research projects (minimum 3 researchers per project) for the above 6 research themes:

Sustainable Development

- The use of recycled waste/materials in construction
- Alternative sources of energy
- Building Information Modeling in support of sustainability

Future IT

- Cyber security
- Virtual Reality to support modeling and simulation of cities and infrastructures

Economic Growth

- The effect of the decline of oil and gas prices on the economy
- Islamic Finance
- Competitiveness in the Arab World

Teaching and Learning

- The use of new technologies and methods in learning and teaching
- A holistic view of the educational system in Bahrain and how primary, secondary and tertiary education could be linked

Women Leadership

- Women Leadership in the Higher Education sector in Bahrain and the GCC
- Bahraini Women Leaders in Business

Co-existence and Tolerance

- Co-existence and tolerance and their impact on society
- The contribution of expatriates living in Bahrain to the economic and social development of the Kingdom

We should conduct our research within the context of national strategies, vision 2030 and some priorities from Ministries and Government Departments and the Economic Development Board specified priorities. The Secretary General of the HEC emphasized the importance of publishing in top indexed refereed journals and through collaborative research work between universities. It is vital for all universities to create a strong research culture if they want to feature strongly in international league tables of universities rankings.

The second item that was discussed was sports facilities according to the recent bylaws that was published in the official gazette in October 2017.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Zainab Mostafa Otoom

Position: Lecturer - General Studies Department, College of Arts & Science

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

I was born in Jerash in northern Jordan, I graduated from secondary school after passing the General Secondary Examinations, the official university entrance level exams in Jordan, with a very high average of 92%. This excellent GPA enabled me to get admission to Yarmouk University, an official government university in Jordan, to study English Language and Literature. Having finished my undergraduate study, I pursued my graduate study for the master degree in translation at the same university.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I am English language lecturer at Applied Science University (ASU). Teaching English is no easy feat. With a variety of different skill levels in every classroom, I must employ effective strategies that allow each student to learn the material, whether the class focuses on literature, grammar, or language skills.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

My long-term goals involve growing with the university where I can continue to learn, take on additional

All universities should provide sports facilities according to the conditions specified in the bylaws. As a temporary measure, all universities should make their own arrangement through existing clubs and facilities to provide students with a temporary solution. A plan of execution for proposed sports facilities should be submitted to the HEC.

The third item that was discussed was internships and partnerships with the private sector. It is important that we enter into partnerships with the private sector (and government departments when relevant) to support deep collaboration including support for students in terms of partnerships, training, consultancy and research. Our programs should be relevant to market needs and our career and alumni office should play a major role in supporting our students in achieving high employment rates by ensuring that our graduates are fit for the market place. Graduate attributes play an important role in ensuring that our students leave the university with the right qualifications and skills.

Market needs analysis should be conducted on a regular basis and our programs should be upgraded according to these needs.

Some other general issues that were covered included: coordination committees between the HEC and labor and industry bodies, electronic approval for certain activities by the HEC to speed up the approval process, yearly/ annual events throughout the year should be submitted to the HEC in order to speed up the process of approval, just inform the HEC if speakers are from Government Sector as there is no need for approval, students' admissions and completion: exceeding 8 years is not allowed, admissions of students from KSA and Kuwait is not allowed, equivalency of courses should follow the HEC academic bylaws, partnerships: MOUs should be with reputable universities, opportunities with the British Council for establishing professional centers, programs need regular reviews, saturation of programs, new programs should be developed.

HEA FELLOWSHIP UPDATES



Following the HEA accreditation conference meeting between Dr. Faiza Zitouni and Dr. Adel Al Samman from ASU side and Mr. Richard Exley and Mr. William Syms from the Higher Education Academy, the meeting addressed the requirements needed to gain the HEA accreditation.

responsibilities, and contribute as much value as I can. I love that ASU emphasizes professional development opportunities. My ASU has been wonderfully supportive and open to innovation. I would like to combine both teaching and research. In order to enhance my skills and to move closer to my career aspiration, I am looking for a research job, publishing articles, and starting my PhD soon.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

It's enjoyable and satisfying to watch my students grow as learners just in 16 week semester, especially the courses that I teach are dictated by the needs of the major programs at ASU.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

My hobbies are reading, travelling and watching movies.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

My favorite food is Mansaf.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

These days, I am reading "The Moral Rhetoric of American Presidents" By Colleen J. Shogan

This book astutely analyzes the president's role as the nation's moral spokesman. The author's sharp analysis of how American presidents use rhetoric to portray themselves as leaders and defenders of American moral and religious values is insightful and persuasive.

8. Final words

I am really determined to achieve my and ASU's goals. I wish all the best to my distinguished academic institution (ASU).

Taking into consideration that we have more than 50 academics, either obtained the fellowship or in process of obtaining it, such accreditation would help ASU from two sides. First, it would allow our university to have its accredited HEA center to provide UKPSF training and development for HEA fellowship obtaining, whether to our staff, or to other universities academic staff members in the region. Second, it would add a great value to our HEC accreditation portfolio and add more confidence in our professional capabilities.



In the wake of the meeting, Professor Ghassan Aouad, ASU president, called HEA fellowship applicants for a meeting in the clock tower that was attended by almost 80% of the parties concerned. The meeting was very profitable in providing applicants with a well needed motivational boost from the president of the university who made it quite clear that the university invests substantial amounts in developing its staff, and HEA fellowship is one of the important cores of academic development within the university. Attendees discussed some related issues and obstacles with the president, who took the necessary actions towards facilitating the process for them.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY SEMINAR AT THE ARAB OPEN UNIVERSITY IN KUWAIT



Dr Assem Al-Hajj, VP for Academic Affairs and Development, was invited by Techknowledge, Turnitin and the Arab Open University (AOU) in Kuwait to deliver a keynote presentation at the Academic Integrity Seminar that took place on the 6th November 2017. Dr



Assem's presentation was on "Anti-Plagiarism as a Tool to Improve Academic Quality". The seminar was attended by the AOU Director Prof. Naif Almutairi, Prof. Ashraf Saad Hussein, VP for Education and Information Technology and academic staff and students. The presentation was well received by the audience and followed by a questions and answers session that attracted many questions and valuable contributions.

SUPPORT OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Prof Saad Dariwsh, President's Advisor for Special Projects attended the Launch of Alwani Society in Bahrain on 7 November 2017. This society has the mission of highlighting the role that women can play in Bahraini economy. The objective is to increase the percentage of women contributing to the labor market and to enhance the efficiency and capabilities of women to follow their chosen career. Further, to raise awareness within the wider Bahraini society of the rights and responsibilities of women so as to allow them to play a more active role in the economy. Many entrepreneurs' men and women attended the event as part of their support to this new society. At the end of the event, the board and the chair of the society thanked all those who supported them. This is a good opportunity for our female students to join this society as it can be of a good help for those planning to start their own businesses.



REMINDER OF THE WEEK

International Conference on Sustainable Futures: 26-27 November, the Grove Hotel, Amwaj Islands

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Things done well and with a care, exempt themselves from fear.”

William Shakespeare



Happy Reading!

