

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 39th edition of the President's News Digest. I am sure that you would have noticed that we are still producing the News Digest during the summer break; we are determined to produce 52 editions a year. Many thanks to Ayat for dealing with this in Tania's absence and many thanks to all those colleagues who are providing us with stories even though they are on holidays. I sincerely hope you are all enjoying your summer breaks, but some 9 colleagues from Administrative Sciences led by Dr Ramzi Nekhili have shortened their summer breaks by 2 weeks in order to deal with the programmes with limited confidence. I am grateful to all of them for their dedication and commitment to transform these programmes into full confidence.



Last week, we featured very strongly with comprehensive interviews, articles and stories and students recruitment adverts in the Arabic and English press. Specifically we featured in the GDN, Daily Tribune, Akhbar ALKhaleej, and ALBilad. More articles will appear in the Gulf Weekly, AlWasat and Alayam in the next couple of days. This will help our students recruitment which remains our top priority. Many thanks to our colleagues in Marketing and Public Affairs for all their good work in this area.

The good progress on the audit conducted by KPMG regarding our financial and administrative processes is reported in this edition of the News Digest. I am grateful to our colleagues in the Directorate of Administration and Finance led by Mr Abdulla ALKhaja. There has also been significant progress in the development of the University Catalogue, Students Handbook, and Community Engagement Booklet, which are going through the final editing at

the moment. Many thanks to Prof Saad, Dr. Faiza, and their teams and to Ms Mariam and Ms Diana. Our work in change management and accreditation is also progressing well, many thanks to Ms Monia and Dr Roy. The HEC monthly report was submitted on the 28th of July, you will receive copies soon. Dr Assem, Prof Siddeeq, Ustaz Abdulla and other colleagues in Admin and Finance, and Ms Diana work hard on these reports every months.

On Tuesday the 26th of July, Prof Waheeb AlKhaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and myself joined Dr Abdul Rahman Aljawaheri, President of GPIC, for lunch in the presence of Professor Rao from LSBU and other colleagues from GPIC. On Wednesday the 27th, Prof Rao visited us at the University and we had a very fruitful meeting with him regarding our joint programmes with LSBU.

I would like to remind you all that our new staff induction starts on the 7th of September, please keep this date in your diary. Dr Assem, Dr Mohamed Yusuf, Dr Ramzi, Dr Adel and Mr Abdulla have developed a very comprehensive 4 days induction programme, you will receive more detail about this soon. The induction will cover awareness about the University, preparation of course portfolios and teaching and assessment methods amongst many other interesting topics. The attendance of the induction programme is a must for all existing and new staff.

Professor Zedan has been visiting LSBU to work on the development of LLB Law. We are confident that this Programme will be validated before the end of November.

Let me conclude this edition by thanking you once again for all your hard work and contributions to transform our University. Enjoy your summer breaks.

VISIT TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

On 10th July 2016 The political sciences Department organized the second visit for its students to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to expose the students to the political links between theory and practice in the field of diplomacy in the ministry.

The Ambassador Abdulla Abdullatif Abdulla undersecretary of the ministry has delivered an important lecture about the diplomatic strategy of the kingdom of Bahrain and its applied aspects in the international diplomacy. The Ambassador, Dr. Dhafer Ahmed Alumran described to the students the main departments in the Ministry.



KPMG AUDIT:

In the efforts geared towards the preparation for the HEC Accreditation, the Directorate of Administration & Finance successfully completed a rigorous audit through the draft follow up of Cycle 4, 2015 – 2016 audit conducted by KPMG.

The Directorate developed an implementation roadmap, taking into account all recommendations from the previous audits. The roadmap-delegated responsibilities for process owners and recommendations were broken down into tasks, for ease of implementation / tracking.



A summary of the achievements done by the Directorate team members are illustrated in the below graph.

Progress	Financial Management	Human Resources	Procurement
Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budgeting: The Finance Department is conducting a monthly reporting that includes the department-wise budget versus actuals. Fixed Assets: Physical verification of the fixed assets register has been performed and the fixed assets register has been updated in PeachTree. Receivables: A policy for managing the accounts / students' receivables (including provisioning) has been drafted and is being submitted for the Board of Trustees approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manpower Planning: A formal manpower planning exercise for 2016-17 has been conducted, based on the department manpower needs. Organisation Chart: The University has formally documented its organisation chart, representing all the key positions. Training Plan: The training plan (including the training costs) for 2015-2016 has been documented and approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tendering Committee: A Tendering Committee has been established to institute stronger controls over the high value procurements. Vendor Management: PeachTree has been updated with the vendor master list, including the approved vendors. Purchasing Department: 3 additional purchase officers have been recruited. Also, the library and bookstore purchasing tasks have been centralised under the Purchasing Department.
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies & Procedures: Update the Finance Manual, including documenting the timeline for budget preparation and submission (in line with the HEC requirements). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Succession Planning: Develop a formal succession plan within the Board of Trustees' approved framework. Performance Management: Develop and implement a mix of the quantitative and qualitative employee-level KPIs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budgetary Controls: Include the necessary budgetary controls in Purchase Requisition Module, once Oracle is implemented.

The previous cycle reports identified 29 high risk areas, 35 moderate risk areas and 0 low risk areas.

As for the last cycle, the report identified that out of the 29 high risk areas 25 areas were achieved, 4 areas are a work in progress, and out of the 35 moderate risk areas, 20 areas were achieved, 12 areas are a work in progress awaiting approvals.

MEETING WITH CAPITAL GOVERNORATE:

On 25th July 2016 a meeting was held at the Capital Governorate for ASU Delegates - Prof. Ghassan Aouad, Dr. Faiza Zitouni, Dr. Saad Darwash and Ms Edyta Przybyla.

Mr. Yusuf Lori-Head of Strategic Planning and Projects Management of the Capital Governorate led the initial talks. The main focus during the discussion was on student internship programs, sustainable government projects and social events that will position ASU as a competitive university and a prior choice among other universities in terms of recruitment. Following the meeting, the ASU delegates were received by HE the Deputy Governor, Mr Hassan Abdullah Al-Madani on behalf of HE Sheikh Hisham Bin AbdulRahman AlKhalifa.



MEETING WITH SILAH GULF:

On 26th July 2016 a meeting was held at ASU with Prof. Ghassan Aouad, Dr. Saad Darwash, Mrs. Ruqaya Mohsin, Ms. Edyta Przybyla and the Director of Silah Gulf -Matthew Sztukiewicz. The attendees discussed the practical aspects of engagement models between Applied Science University and Silah Gulf.

The initiative aims at providing ASU's students with various incentives and value added practical skills, enabling them to efficiently start their professional careers. The proposal (subject to approval by the Dean of College) is to start with Interior Design students and to provide them with Bentley MicroStation courses as follows:

- a) MicroStation Essentials – a course during which students will learn 2D drawings tools and techniques in Bentley MicroStation;
- b) MicroStation everything in 3D – a course enabling students to learn 3D modelling techniques in Bentley MicroStation; and
- c) MicroStation Advanced Visualization and Animation – a course during which students will learn how to efficiently and effectively use Bentley MicroStation and other Bentley solutions to create impressive visual models. The cooperation between ASU and Silah Gulf will definitely boost an image of the university as a prior choice in terms of recruitment.



USEFUL READING

PLASTIC BAG USE HAS PLUMMETED IN ENGLAND

Change is always driven by a reason, please read this interesting article and learn lessons of how we can make efficiency savings in our University, especially in terms of energy consumption.

Rebecca Morelle, Science Correspondent, BBC News writes:

Plastic bag use has plummeted in England since the introduction of a 5p charge last year, the government says. In the six months after the levy was brought in last October, 640 million plastic bags were used in seven major supermarkets in England, it says. In 2014, the waste reduction charity Wrap estimated the same supermarkets had used 7.64 billion bags.



The government says if the trend continues over the year, six billion fewer bags will be used. It follows the pattern seen in the rest of the UK since the introduction of charges for bags. Wales introduced a levy in 2011, followed by Northern Ireland in 2013 and Scotland in 2014. They saw reductions in bag use of 76%, 71% and 80%, respectively, in the first year after the fee was established. The charge was introduced in England on 5 October 2015, with all retailers with more than 250 full-time employees required to charge a minimum of 5p to customers for single-use, plastic carrier bags.

'Fantastic news'

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is now collating data on their use. Environment Minister Therese Coffey said the reduction in the number of bags being used was "fantastic news".

"It will mean our precious marine life is safer, our communities are cleaner and future generations won't be saddled with mountains of plastic taking hundreds of years to break down in landfill sites."

This reduction in plastic could benefit the environment, especially the oceans. A report published in the journal *Science* in 2015 estimated that about 8 million tonnes of plastic ends up in global waters each year.

Dr Sue Kinsey, from the UK's Marine Conservation Society, said: "Every year we survey our beaches, and last year we found over 5,000 bags over one weekend." She said that birds and marine mammals ate plastic, and bags were also breaking down into smaller pieces and being consumed by tiny marine organisms. "We're hoping with the charges in place now in all parts of the UK, we'll see a decrease in the number of bags washing up on our shores." However she said that England could do more to further reduce plastic pollution.

'Administrative burden'

She said she wanted to see the exemption for small businesses on charging the levy removed. "There's no exemption in Scotland and Wales for instance," she told BBC News. "If that exemption was removed, we'd see even more plastic bags removed from the environment, which has only got to be good news." The government said that extending the 5p charge would be too much of an administrative burden for smaller businesses.

By Rebecca Morelle

Science Correspondent, BBC News



Plastic Bags VS Paper Bags

Yes, we have to use paper bags instead of plastic bags.

- Paper bags are eco-friendly but plastic bags are not biodegradable.
- There is option to recycle the [paper bags](#) where as we cannot recycle the plastic bags.

THE 25 RICHEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD BASED ON PURCHASING POWER PARITY OF GDP:

The 25 Richest Countries In the World Based on Purchasing Power Parity Of GDP Per Capita published recently by the Worldatlas. The figures are in US Dollars. Bahrain is doing well and ahead of many successful nations.



Rank	Country	GDP per capita (PPP)
1.	Qatar	140,649
2.	Luxembourg	98,460
3.	Singapore	82,763
4.	Kuwait	73,246
5.	Brunei Darussalam	71,185
6.	United Arab Emirates	67,674
7.	Norway	65,614
8.	Switzerland	59,540
9.	United States	54,629
10.	Saudi Arabia	52,010
11.	Ireland	49,393
12.	Netherlands	48,253
13.	Austria	47,682
14.	Germany	46,401
15.	Australia	45,925
16.	Denmark	45,537
17.	Bahrain	45,500
18.	Sweden	45,297
19.	Canada	45,066
20.	Iceland	43,993
21.	Belgium	43,435
22.	Finland	40,676
23.	United Kingdom	40,233
24.	France	39,328
25.	Oman	38,631

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Induction of new staff, 7th of September

BOT meeting 8th of September

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best”

St. Jerome



Enjoy Reading
