

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 46th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.

In this issue I will be highlighting the University's priorities over the next few months.



Last week, the University was buzzing with so many activities including the **welcome reception of all existing and new staff** hosted by the Chairman of the BOT and the President, **HEA training, students' admission and registration, the arrival of new academic and administrative staff**, and the first "**all staff meeting**" held this academic year.

In this "**all staff meeting**", which was attended by around 100 existing staff and 35 new staff, I welcomed all returning and new colleagues and briefed them about our top **priorities for the next few months**. Our top priority remains the **preparation for institutional accreditation**. In this meeting, I briefed all colleagues about the **8 areas of accreditation, the 33 standards and 218 Key Indicators** and presented progress in this area including the submission of the accreditation application to the HEC and **writing of the SER and collection of evidence** and supporting materials. This work is coordinated by the Accreditation Group, which meets on a weekly basis. Ms Tania circulated the **accreditation handbook in both Arabic and English** in order to encourage our colleagues, particularly the new ones, to read it and to become familiar with the requirements for accreditation. During **staff induction week**, the VP Academic Affairs and Development will brief our new colleagues more about accreditation including its benefits and their involvement.

Another priority for the coming semester is the **successful launch of our new British programmes** including the foundation year for all **4 programmes with LSBU and Cardiff Met**. Students' registration, use of learning resources including Moodle, study plans, programmes' handbooks, quality delivery of all courses, smooth running of the programmes, continuous communication with our British partners and many other aspects should be addressed and looked after really properly. **Quality** should be at the heart of delivering these programmes.

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It is worth noting that the successful running of these programmes will raise our profile and help us market these programmes and attract more students. Our colleagues from **Cardiff Met and LSBU will soon visit the University and induct our staff**, delivering these programmes, and students who are studying on these programmes. **During staff induction this week, and students' orientation next week, staff and students will be informed more about these British programmes.**

A third priority is our **Marketing and Student Recruitment**. Students are the bread and butter of our University; we should recruit them and retain them. Student recruitment is a collective effort and we should all have a role to play. This is becoming now a very competitive issue and we should **devise new and innovative approaches** to student recruitment. The University prospectus, programmes' handbook and other marketing materials, website, social media, visits to schools, open days, media presence, publicising our academic activities and achievements (Staff and Students), organising research conferences and seminars, active participation in community engagement projects, promoting the quality of educational delivery of our programmes, engaging with key stakeholders, particularly private and public schools, and highlighting the financial aid and support we are providing can help us in this area. Marketing and student recruitment is in part art and in part science. **Putting detailed and rigorous plans is really important**, but it is as important to **use our networks including our alumni and students to promote the good work of the University**, as the words of mouth are also really important.

Other priorities this semester include the **submission of the HEC annual report by the end of September, updating of KPIs, keeping the website up to date, periodic programme reviews, NQF preparation, new improvement plans** that have to be in place this semester for programmes in Arts and Science, **CIOB event** on 24 September, **graduation ceremony** to be held on 25 October, and finally the **international conference** to be held in November (26 to 27).

I would like to conclude this edition by reminding all colleagues that **teaching for the first semester starts on Monday** and we should all be prepared to provide our students with the best University's experience.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Shadia Mohammad Abualasal

Position: Head of Applications Development Department, Directorate of ICT & Knowledge Management

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

I was born in Irbid in northern Jordan. I am the oldest among my brothers and sisters in the family. I was raised in a normal family setting with a very lovely atmosphere. I enjoyed studying at school; I liked my friends and my teachers. It was a really nice time!

I got my BSc degree in Computer Science from the College of Science, Yarmouk University. I worked at Yarmouk University in the Computer Center for sixteen years, where I took many roles such as Programmer, Senior Programmer, Head of Academic Programming Unit, team leader of the inventory system, team leader of Human Resources System (HRS) ... and finally Head of Academic Programming Department; where I was mainly responsible for the development and maintenance of the Student Information Systems (SIS).

I am married and have three daughters and two sons.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I was appointed in March 2014 as an Oracle Senior Analyst and

ASU'S LIBRARY PARTICIPATING IN AL-AYAM CULTURAL FAIR



ASU's library is participating in the 24th Al-Ayam Cultural Fair, a successful book sale with the participation of publishing houses from both Arab & International countries. The fair

kick started on 14 September and will go on till 23 September 2017. Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister visited ASU stand during the opening ceremony. ASU publications are being displayed and available for immediate purchase. The objective of this participation is to introduce the ASU publications to the academic Bahraini community and to market the library as a contributing factor of ASU research community.



HEA VISIT 14-17 SEPTEMBER 2017



The last visit from HEA represented by Dr Adrian Brockett was carried out from 14-17 September 2017. This phase is important since it



represents the second cycle of CLTHE by HEA trainer. The first two days 14-15 September 2017 were allocated for the Fellow applicants and the last two days 16-17 were allocated

for the Senior Fellow applicants/ Mentors. Many topics were covered during this visit, such as; plagiarism, teaching pedagogies, feedback, assessment etc.... A final roundtable discussion was carried out between the Mentors and Dr Adrian with the aim to highlight and agree future plan, some imminent tasks and deadlines.

Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of the University and Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Vice President for Academic Affairs and

Developer at Applications Development Department, then I was assigned a new role as Head of Applications Development Department, which I still hold till date. My goal is to computerize all systems and services at ASU.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

My ambition in my work at ASU is to see the University at the forefront of the universities at the region. I hope we achieve all targets related to accreditation.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy creating new systems from A to Z using Oracle tools, Analysis, Logical Database Design, Application Design, Business Logic design, bug tracing; I really enjoy everything in programming and I also enjoy working with my colleagues at ASU.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

I enjoy reading, meditation and anything related to design.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

My favourite food is yummy "Yalangee" (vegetarian stuffed vine leaves).

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

Well, as you know it is very challenging and hard to find time in order to read a book; these days I am reading "Project Management Body of Knowledge" (PMBOK GUIDE).

8. Final words

ASU is a very promising university, I wish for it and all staff success and progress.

Development presented as a token of appreciation a small gift to Dr Adrian for his great work with ASU. Dr Adrian commented that he was very pleased with the progress that has been achieved so far by the applicants/ mentors.



Professor Ghassan also highlighted the importance of staff commitment and the embedment of Excellence in all our Learning and Teaching practices.

Many thanks go to Dr Adel Al Samman for organizing this event and for making it a great success.

Good luck to all HEA Applicants!

POLICY OF THE WEEK



New Students Orientation Guidelines ACAD 12

Purpose: Provide details of the commencement programme for new students before the start of their academic studies.

Responsibility: The Deanship of Student Affairs will prepare an orientation programme, conducted through a series of short seminars by key staff, designed to welcome new students and assist them with their transition to study with the various colleges. During the orientation, students will be provided with a comprehensive Student Orientation Pack and they will have an opportunity to:

- ✚ interact with staff, faculty and other students
- ✚ identify academic and student support services
- ✚ understand faculty expectations and college policies
- ✚ access registration information and validate their e-mail account
- ✚ ask pertinent questions about programs of study, important dates to remember,
- ✚ academic support services,
- ✚ know what it takes to be successful in academics

The Deanship of Student Affairs will ensure that the orientation programme is planned in a fun and engaging manner (including a tour of the University), with the involvement of the Student Council and other students.

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Workshop organized by the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) on 24th September 2017 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Applied Science University (ASU). The President of ASU will be presenting on "the Art and Science of Leadership in Construction".

Please register using the link: <https://events.ciob.org/ehome/index.php?eventid=200172769&>

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"One thing an exceptional employee never says is, 'That's not in my job description.' Exceptional employees work outside the boundaries of job descriptions."

Travis Bradberry

Happy Reading