

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 47th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.

In this issue, I will be summarizing the key messages from the **2 days staff induction event** that took place on 19 and 20 September.



The University welcomed last week **28 new academic and administrative colleagues**. Many thanks go to all those new and existing staff who attended the Staff Induction Days. The event started with a very warm

welcome by the Chairman of the BOTs, who highlighted the strategic directions of the University and the role new staff can play in its development. Following the welcoming speech by the Chairman of the BOTs, **the President presented some key facts about the University and the many opportunities** that they are within our grasp. The President presented the **vision and mission** of the University and the **strategic priorities** as specified in our strategic plan. He covered the **three core pillars of Teaching and Learning, Research, and Community Engagement**, and the **four supportive pillars of Student Support, Internationalization, Quality Assurance, and Sustainable Growth**.



He then spoke about **institutional accreditation** as a strategic investment in our future. He stated that Accreditation is a stamp of **quality** and should be our top priority over the next few months. All staff, admin and academic, should become familiar with the **accreditation handbook** and its content, which includes **8 areas, 33 standards and 218**. In the **3 areas of Governance, and Strategy and Financial Management, Academic Administration and Management, and Teaching and Learning and Assessment** we need to score **"significantly met" or "fully met"**.

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These 3 areas demonstrate that as an institution we are properly governed and managed including risks mitigation, and our students are getting the best learning experience. However, it is still important for the other 5 remaining areas of research, community engagement, facilities, student's progression and quality management to score as high.

Our staff, students and other stakeholders should be **familiar with our strategy house, vision, mission, values, and physical and organizational charts**, which are displayed on our screens and banners across various locations in the University. In addition, **our golden rules of teaching, a great teacher, and graduate attributes** are displayed on screens and banners across the University. This will demonstrate that our students are fully aware of what we are doing in the University and what's useful for them.

The president concluded his presentation by **highlighting our priorities over the next 5 years** including sustainable growth, international professional accreditation and creating research capacity.

The Director of Marketing and Students Affairs made the **next presentation about the Kingdom of Bahrain** and its historical and touristic attractions. She highlighted the friendliness of the Bahraini people and how they make expatriates feel very welcome. She also made reference to HM the king's vision in promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence. The Director concluded with the activities of the various divisions of her directorate, which include marketing and student recruitment and public affairs.

The **third presentation** was made by the **VP for Academic Affairs and Development** who spoke about our **teaching and learning strategy emphasizing the importance of course portfolios preparation, staff development and quality of teaching delivery**. He emphasized the importance of **peer review of teaching and class observations**. He also presented a good summary of our **achievements last year** in the area of teaching and learning including the achievement of **full confidence in 3 programs in Administrative Sciences and the submission of our application for institutional accreditation**.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Dr Ramzi Nekhili

Position: Acting Dean, College of Administrative Sciences

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

I was born and raised in Tunisia and I hold a PhD in Finance from Bilkent University and a senior fellowship of the Higher Education in UK.

I worked as an academic in various international universities including Steinbeis School of International Business and Entrepreneurship in Berlin, Germany, the University of Wollongong in Dubai, the European University College of Brussels, Eastern Mediterranean University in Cyprus, and Bilkent University in Turkey.

My major achievements were ABET of College of Engineering in Eastern Mediterranean University in Cyprus and a major player in the re-licensure of University of Wollongong in Dubai.

While building my career in academia, I have consulted a variety of business and institutions, including Oil & Gas and commodity trading institutions, for valuation and mergers acquisitions deals. I served as tutor of Corporate Finance Qualification with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, as non-executive director of a Saudi group, and as investment manager of a private firm in Oil & Gas industry.

The VP was very clear about making **quality** at the heart of all what we do in the university and about making students at the center of all our activities.

His concluding remarks fed nicely into the **Dean of Students Affairs** who spoke about the **support** we give to our students in terms of **counseling, club facilities, career progression and employability, and support to our alumni**. The Dean emphasized the importance of **providing extra-curricular activities to our students and academic and personal support** in order to help them complete their studies successfully.

She also presented the structure of her Deanship and how each division can provide the support needed whether it is in **counseling, students services, career development, alumni and support to the students council, alumni club** and the other five **clubs namely: media, women, volunteering, cultural and sports**.

After lunch, the staff induction event was delivered by **the team of the VP of Admin, Finance and Community Engagement**. The **Director of Admin and Finance** spoke about the **various divisions that report to him including HR, procurement and logistical issues, finance and admin**. The heads of these divisions presented then about **HR policies and processes, the automated procurement system, the budgeting process and various functions supporting admin and finance and our excellent work on health and safety**. The **Director of ICT and KM** presented our **IT systems including SIS and web site** and showed how our staff portal could be used. **The Head of the Community Engagement Office summarized our key achievements** over the last few years and how the University could become more engaged with community engagement activities. Finally, the **Head of HR and Training presented about our staff recruitment, appraisal and support**. He emphasized the importance of automating some of our HR process and clearly stated that our work is progressing well in this area and we expect to see some innovative development in this area by the end of November 2017.

The various presentations that were made by various senior colleagues covering various aspects of the University were very informative to our new colleagues. We have put a lot of efforts to support our new colleagues through a comprehensive induction programme.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I was appointed in September 2015 as Vice Dean of the College of Administrative Sciences and Head of College quality assurance unit in September 2016, and currently acting Dean of the same college.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

ASU is on a high growth phase with great ambitions and under a good leadership.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy interacting with staff and students and being able to influence others.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

Sports in general and golf in particular.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

A north African dish called "Tagine"

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

I am mostly reading articles but the last book I've read was titled "The age of turbulence" by Alan Greenspan.

8. Final words

As my leadership had a great contribution to get full confidence of the college of administrative sciences programmes so I hope it will play a big role to get the institutional accreditation.

I would like to thank all colleagues who presented during the day. In addition, I would like to **thank colleagues in Admin and Finance and Community Engagement led by VP Dr Mohamed Yousif for the excellent preparation and dedication.**

Staff induction, is important from an accreditation point of view and it is also helpful in assisting colleagues to settle smoothly in a new environment. I attended all the presentations and they were really excellent. Mr Yasser will collate them and made them available to you. Mr Abdulla Alkhaja, Mr Yasser and many other colleagues have worked hard, I am grateful to all of them.

From an accreditation point of view, it is important to hear our colleagues' views about what else we could do in the future and whether they enjoyed the event and found it useful.

A questionnaire was sent by Mr Yasser to seek our new colleagues' views about the event.

The **second day of the Staff Induction** was organized by the **Head of Academic Staff Development** and delivered by many senior colleagues. The summary of this day will be reported in a separate article.

DR. AL-HAMAMI HONORED BY UNDP BAHRAIN

Dr. Mohammad Al-Hamami was honored by UNDP Bahrain for his efforts in distributing awareness about Sustainable Development Goals SDG (Global Goals) in social media. The honoring ceremony was held in UN House in Bahrain on 17 September 2017.



Dr. Al-Hamami used his personal accounts to participate in the campaign that has been organized by UNDP Bahrain in cooperation with Social Media Club Bahrain to increase the awareness about SDG using social media platforms during the international celebration of Social Good Summit around the world.



Following

Replying to @MohamadAlHamami @AhmedShawqi @SMCBahrain

We appreciate your support, and are glad to hear you are part of [#TeamSDG!](#)

7:29 PM - 22 Sep 2017

The selected hashtags of the campaign ([#SDGBahrain](#), [#SDGSMC](#), [#2030New](#)) were trend in Bahrain for several days.

UNDP Bahrain used their official account on twitter to thank Dr. Al-Hamami for his effective participation in the campaign.

AN INDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE NEWLY APPOINTED ACADEMIC STAFF

An induction programme was carried out for the newly appointed academic staff on 20 September 2017 at the University's Dome.

The main selected topics for this induction event and their respective speakers were:



- (1) The importance of Accreditation by Professor Ghassan Aouad,
- (2) Academic advising at ASU by Dr Faiza Zitouni,
- (3) The importance of Research and Publishing by Dr. Mahmoud Khalifa,
- (4) Library/e-library to support Teaching and Learning, Turnitin by Dr. Ammar Al Jalamneh,
- (5) Moodle and advanced teaching tools by Mr. Ammar Yousef;
- (6) Teaching Pedagogies, Assessment methods and Feedback by Dr. Ramzi Nekhili,
- (7) Mapping Method and Procedures by Dr Assem.

All new staff were very pleased, the feedback was excellent. Many thanks to Dr Adel Al-Samman for organizing such a great and fruitful event. A follow up induction programme will be carried out at the 4 Colleges level to cover programmes and courses requirements.

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

- ✚ Students Orientation (25 September 2017)
- ✚ Visit by Dr Theo from Cardiff Met to induct staff and students studying on the Cardiff Met programmes (26-27 September 2017)
- ✚

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Today, no leader can afford to be indifferent to the challenge of engaging employees in the work of creating the future. Engagement may have been optional in the past, but it's pretty much the whole game today.”

Gary Hamel

Happy Reading

