

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Message from the President
- The College of Engineering welcomes its new academic staff and students
- Alumni Club Meetings
- Cardiff Metropolitan University's Visit to ASU
- Information Event for Cardiff Metropolitan University Programmes
- Brainstorm Meeting
- E-Government Excellence Award 2017
- Interview of the Week
 - Dr Qais Khaleel Sallam Maaitah
- Reminder of the Week
 - BOT Meeting 18 October
 - Graduation Ceremony 25 October
- Quote of the Week

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 49th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.

In this issue, I will be addressing the various **boards and councils of the University** that provide its proper governance according to its bylaws. The **University has** the following boards and councils: **Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, University Council, College Council, Department Council, and Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council.** Several University committees as per the Committees' Terms of Reference assist these councils.



The Board of Directors is the **highest authority** in the University, and it consists of a minimum of five members from the University's shareholders. This board is mainly responsible for Investment and main financial decisions and approval of the annual budget proposed by the President and approved by the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees is mainly responsible to provide the governance needed to promote a culture of excellence in teaching and learning, scientific research, innovation, and community engagement and to safeguard the University's reputation and define its mission and its future directions. In addition, the BOT approves and reviews the University's strategic and operational plans on a regular basis by measuring their effectiveness through defined Key Performance Indicators. The BOT is also responsible for approving the budget, and financial statements related to the University and submit the recommendations to the Board of Directors. The BOT is also responsible for ensuring that all policies and procedures are developed to the highest standards. The BOT is also responsible for approving the university bylaws, policies and regulations or any changes presented by the University Council. The Board of Trustees consists of at least seven members within any cycle, and the total members must not exceed 15.



The University Council has both the authority and the responsibility to provide recommendations related to changing policies of the University according to circumstances relevant to the issue under examination. The Council is responsible for all issues related to quality of teaching, learning, research, and community service, including admissions requirements of students, policies and procedures for assessment of students' achievement and relevant exams, curriculum content, academic standards, approval, and review of courses, decisions concerning academic promotions, and any other issues related to human resources, development of strategic plans, including strategies of teaching, learning, scientific research, community service, and training and finally review the university bylaws, policies and regulations and submit recommendations to the Board of Trustees for approval. The University President chairs the University Council.

The College Council, chaired by the College Dean, is responsible for all academic matters including teaching and learning, scientific research, quality assurance, and community service in their college. The College Council is responsible for reviewing the academic curricula and any additional conditions related to the admissions of students into academic programs in the College, and present them to the University Council. The College is also responsible for approving students' results at the end of each Semester (and for graduating students the results are submitted to the University Council to approve their qualification awards). The College Council is also responsible for providing recommendations concerning promotions of academic staff, and any issues relevant to human resources. In addition, the College Council prepares an annual budget for the College in coordination with the academic departments and relevant divisions in the university in accordance with the strategic and operational plans of the College and the University.

The Department Council, chaired by the Head of Department, is responsible for all academic matters including teaching and learning, scientific research, quality assurance, and community service, and implementation of relevant plans. The Department Council submits proposals concerning specialties and new academic programs in the Department to the College Council. In addition, the Department Council submits the results of students, including students expected to graduate, and forward them to the College Council.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Dr Qais Khaleel Sallam
Maaitah

Position: Assistant Professor of
Commercial Law

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

I was born in Karak, south of Jordan. I am the oldest among my brothers and sisters in the family. I was raised in a normal family setting in a lovely atmosphere. I am married and have a daughter and one son.

I got my B.Sc. in Law from University of Mutah, Jordan in 2006. I pursued my further education, where I received my MSc. in Contracts of Insurance from University of Granada, Spain in 2010 and I got a second master degree in Commercial Companies from the same university in 2012, and finally I obtained my Ph.D. in Commercial Law in 2013 from University of Granada, Spain.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I was appointed in February 2013 as Assistant Professor of Commercial Law, and then I was the Assistant Director of Quality Assurance Unit, Faculty of Law in 2014, which I still hold till date.

The Department Council is also responsible for developing an academic plan, including curricula, methods of assessment and feedback, guidance, academic advising for students, and policies and procedures related to internships for students.

The Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council is responsible for auditing the quality of academic programs and course portfolios in the University and to forward recommendations to the University Council in relation to reviews of the National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance of Education and Training, resolutions and bylaws of the Higher Education Council, and aspects related to the national qualifications framework (NQF). This Council is also responsible for monitoring the outcomes and action plans emerging from visits by professional, legislative, and regulatory authorities. In addition, the Council monitors the main activities of quality assurance and accreditation, including periodical institutional and program reviews and submits recommendations concerning the improvements required to the University Council. The University President chairs the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council.

More information about the above boards and councils can be found in the University Bylaws available on the University's portal.

The Head of Governance and Strategic Planning is responsible for scheduling meetings throughout the year for all these boards and councils and their associated committees. It is also their responsibility to form these committees according to the Bylaws and Committees Terms of References. The Secretary of The University's Councils is responsible for ensuring that all committees are meeting with proper agenda, minutes and actions that are addressed. Decisions and resolutions from these committee meetings are passed to the relevant higher committees. The head of internal audit will audit the minutes of these meetings on a regular basis. This is important from an accreditation point of view in order to ensure the smooth governing and management of the University. The separation of governance and management is strongly highlighted in the Accreditation Handbook.

THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING WELCOMES ITS NEW ACADEMIC STAFF AND STUDENTS

ASU has started this academic year by announcing the start of two Engineering Programmes namely; B.Eng. (Hons) in Architectural Design Engineering and B. Eng. (Hons) in Civil and Construction Engineering.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

My aspiration for the University is to see ASU as one of the leading private universities supporting practical learning and scientific research in Bahrain and the Gulf

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the University community, students' life within the university campus, in addition to the seminars and conferences organized by the University. I also enjoy working with ASU staff. (I love ASU).

5. Tell us about your hobbies

I enjoy reading, sports, fashion, and computer world.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

My favourite food is Mansaf.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

I am reading books related to e-commerce law.

8. Final words

I wish ASU all the best.

The two programmes are unique in nature as they offer students the chance to study an internationally recognised UK degree course here in Bahrain. Upon successfully completing the programme, students will be awarded their degree from the UK's London South Bank University.

ASU has recruited highly qualified faculty members graduated from top ranked international Universities. The newly recruited academic staff members went through the necessary induction as well as participating in the orientation for the new students. In the photo you can see the Engineering faculty members; from right to left: Dr Mohamed Assiadi; Academic Staff in the programme of Civil and Construction Engineering, Dr Mohamed Mahgoub; Academic Staff in the programme of Architectural Design Engineering, Dr Assem Al-Hajj; VP for Academic Affairs and Development and Academic Staff in the programme of Civil and Construction Engineering, Dr Islam Abohela; Head of Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering and Academic Staff in the programme of Architectural Design Engineering, Dr. Raad Kadhum; Academic Staff in the programme of Civil and Construction Engineering and Mr Yoonusraj Kodakkadan; Academic Staff in the College Engineering.



The College of Engineering team is full of energy and they are all keen on delivering highest quality engineering education to our dear students.

ALUMNI CLUB MEETINGS

On 24 September 2017, the Deanship of Student Affairs conducted a meeting with the Board of Directors members of the Alumni Club for its 2nd cycle to discuss the forthcoming year's plan including the most important points related to our graduates, institutional accreditation and the input of the Alumni club into the ASU' strategy and vision .

Another meeting was also conducted between the Board of Directors members to explain the importance of updating the alumni membership database, issuing the Alumni membership cards and agreeing on the privileges of the card users.



CARDIFF METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY'S VISIT TO ASU



On 26/27 September ASU was visited by two members of staff from Cardiff Metropolitan University: Dr Theo Koukouravas (Deputy Dean of School of Management & Head of Partnerships) and Mr David Thomas (Senior Partnership Officer). The purpose of the visit was to discuss administrative and organisational matters for the BA Accounting & Finance and the BA Management & Business Studies, which have their first intake of students this academic year.

Dr Theo and Mr David met with an ASU team consisting of the Chairman of the BOT, the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs & Development, Vice President for Administration, Finance & Community Engagement, Head of Governance, Strategic Planning & International Partnerships, Dean of Student Affairs, Dean of Admissions & Registration, Acting Dean of the College of Administrative Sciences, Director of the Foundation Year Programmes, members of academic staff responsible for the programmes and other members of the ASU programme team.

Dr Theo and Mr David also met with a group of students from the first batch registered on the two programmes, to hear their views and gather their feedback.

Dr Theo and Mr David complimented the ASU team on the campus and on the organisation of the programmes. They were also impressed by the high standard of quality and academic organisation which is already in place at ASU, noting that most of the processes required by Cardiff Met are already successfully in operation here, so that suitable arrangements will be quickly set in place to ensure that the Cardiff Met programmes at ASU are run in line with programmes at Cardiff and in accordance with Bahrain and international quality standards.



Overall, the visit was highly successful and the collaboration will continue with Skype discussions and regular future visits by the Cardiff Met Partnership Officer and Link Tutor.

INFORMATION EVENT FOR CARDIFF METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY PROGRAMMES

On Thursday 5 October 2017 the Directorate of Marketing and Public Affairs in cooperation with International Office, held an Information Event for Cardiff Metropolitan University Programmes in the Dome Hall, featuring a presentation by Mr. David Evans, CMU's Regional Marketing Manager, who briefed the audience on Cardiff Metropolitan University, including its history and the extensive facilities for students who are following its programmes.



The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof Dr. Waheeb Alkhaja, delivered a welcoming speech followed by the President of the University, Prof Ghassan Aouad, who gave an overview presentation about ASU and its vision and mission. After this, Dr. Ramzi Nekhili, Acting Dean of the College of Administrative Sciences, talked about the CMU programmes offered at ASU and stressed their importance for providing graduates with high qualifications and skills which will support the labour market.



The Information Event was aimed at schools and potential applicants and the audience also included the ASU senior management team, colleagues from academic, administrative staff and the students who are enrolled in CMU programmes, which have had their first enrolments this semester.



BRAINSTORM MEETING

On Thursday 5 October 2017 a brainstorm meeting was conducted in the Directorate of Marketing and Public Affairs. The meeting included Mr. David Evans, Regional Marketing Manager at Cardiff Metropolitan University, Mrs. Ruqaya Mohsin the Director of Marketing and Public Affairs and Ms. Catherine Hogan Acting Head of Governance, Strategic Planning & International Partnerships and Mr. Abdulhameed Baqi, Acting Office Manager of Marketing and Students Recruitment.



During the meeting, the team discussed the directorate plan with Mr. Evans focusing on activities and strategies which will be used for students' recruitment. As well as commenting positively on the activities, he recommended giving additional attention to online marketing and building long term relations with local and international recruiting agencies and some other related solutions.

E-GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD 2017

Mr. Rifat Hussain, ICT & KM Director, attended the awarding ceremony of the e-Government Excellence Award 2017, which was under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Information and Communication Technology (SCICT).



REMINDER OF THE WEEK

BOT Meeting 18 October

Graduation Ceremony 25 October



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The biggest determinant in our lives is culture, where we are born, what the environment looks like. But the second biggest determinant is probably governance; good governance or a certain kind of governance makes a huge difference in our lives.”

Nicolas Berggruen

Happy Reading

