



# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 7th issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.



I would like to start this edition by congratulating our staff and students for the happy occasions of Bahrain National Day and HM the King's Accession to the Throne. On behalf of the Chairman of the BOTs, Prof Waheeb Al-Khaja and myself this is to wish you and your families happiness, wealth and good health and to wish our beloved Kingdom peace, prosperity and success. On 13 December, our Students Council with help from the Deanship of Students Affairs organized a fantastic celebratory event from mid-day until almost mid-night with various entertainment functions and activities. A detailed article with some photos will be included in this Newsletter.

In this issue, I will be covering once again the issue of institutional accreditation. An accreditation visit by the HEC is expected in the 2nd semester. We have to be well prepared in anticipation of such a visit. The panel will visit classes and observe the quality of teaching. It is very likely that the panel will visit the classes and observe the following: they will check the sessions plan, if they visit on the 4th week of the 2nd Semester, they will expect all lecturers to be covering week 4 of the syllabus in the rooms specified in the timetable. In addition, they will check the course portfolios and syllabus and study plans and sessions plan and do a lot of cross-referencing. Syllabus and session plans should be delivered at the beginning of the Semester. Dr Assem and Prof Hilal will provide a report about what happened in the first semester and ensure that this is the practice for the 2nd semester. If you are using slides, please make sure that the first slide of a PPT presentation will cover the learning outcomes of the session. In addition, they will observe the interactions with the students, the use of technology and other means, and the quality of content and the ability of the lecturer.



Addressing the student experience is of crucial importance. The student experience starts from the moment students start thinking about applying to the university and goes all the way through admissions, registrations, enquiries,

the academic experience including advising and quality of teaching, extra curricular activities, graduation, alumni, employability, career progression, contacts with employers, students progression, students satisfaction, clubs, restaurants, sports facilities, shops, etc

The staff experience is also important by addressing issues related to workload, staff satisfaction, staff development, staff recruitment, staff promotion and rewards.

Another important area is the compliance with bylaws, policies, procedures, committees and their alignments and “closing the loop” for every action. Committees should be run smoothly with relevant agenda, clear minutes and actions that are addressed.

It is very likely that the panel will visit facilities like classrooms, IT labs, library, offices, and sports halls and will check the learning resources including Moodle, Library books, subscriptions, journals, etc.

Quality management and systems is another very important area. Auditing of course portfolios, annual reviews, periodic reviews, surveys, quality manual, quality control, program development, academic auditing, internal and external auditing, quality of prospectus and handbooks, publicity materials, annual reports, web site, and many others should be performed on a regular basis. Lessons learnt should be incorporated in future practices to demonstrate that we are embracing a continuous improvement approach.

The area of governance, management and administration including vision, mission, values, strategic plan, operational plans, KPIs, organizational charts, risk management, health and safety, etc is a priority area and should be fully addressed.

Finally the areas of research: projects, publications, and expenditure against the HEC rules, and community engagement: reports, events, impact, etc, should be fully addressed.

It is important that all the above areas are covered properly. A final reminder is about “closing the loop”, the panel will definitely check that we are addressing action plans and we are closing all matters, we can’t afford to have fluidity in any area. It is also equally important to ensure that the SER report and all supporting materials and evidences are ready by the end of December. It is the responsibility of all area leaders to collect the supporting materials and to check the text of their areas in the SER report.

## INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



**Name:** Mohammad Nassar

**Position:** Assistant Director of Admin and Finance Directorate

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

I am a thirty-three year old of growth, development, science, knowledge and experience mixed with the particles of happiness and sadness.

I was born to parents who sanctify man and his rights, so they choose for me the best international schools and provide all the possibilities of studying law at Al Zaytoonah University in Jordan and to get the LL.M from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom.

I have five brothers, and married with a daughter. The satisfaction of my 8 member family are my life goal for which I tried as much as possible to gain practical experience in my life. I have done many jobs varying between voluntary, part time and fulltime; until I reached my recent experience with ASU.

### 2. Tell us about your job at ASU

Still it is not a long period, three months only, however it was enough to be engaged in the progress of the University.

But the past few months have been enough for me to say that those who see the beauty of the building from outside do not realize the beauty of the work inside.

## PROF. MAHMOUD ABDEL-ATY, KEYNOTE SPEAKER IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MATHEMATICS, STATISTICS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS



Prof. Mahmoud Abdel-Aty has participated in the International Conference on Mathematics, Statistics and their Applications, which

took place from 4 to 7 December 2017, in University Utara Malaysia (ICMSA2017). Prof. Abdel-Aty stated that attending this conference has fruitful discussions and Presented a conference paper as an oral talk and gave an extended lecture on Scientific Publications and how to publish in high impact factor journals.

As an interesting and stimulating result, his paper has been published by the American Institute of Physics, USA in the Conference Proceeding with volume, page number and DOI number. This proceeding has been published, indexed in SCOPUS, ISI and Google Scholar and has been appeared in the database (see the link here)

**Title: Low-cost autonomous perceptron neural network inspired by quantum computation:**  
[aip.scitation.org/doi/pdf/10.1063/1.5012145](http://aip.scitation.org/doi/pdf/10.1063/1.5012145)

Authors: M. Zidan, A. Abdel-Aty, A. El-Sadek, E. Zanaty and M. Abdel-Aty, AIP Conference Proceeding, 1905, 020005 (2017);

Citation: AIP Conference Proceedings 1905, 020005 (2017);

View online: <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.5012145>

View Table of Contents:

<http://aip.scitation.org/toc/apc/1905/1>

Published by: the American Institute of Physics, USA

Also, the results which have been presented in this conference attracted the innovation team (Computer Sciences Team) at University Utara Malaysia showed high interest to join and apply for patent using our new Algorithm in the presented paper.

The conference brought together over 180 professionals from 20 countries from all the world -including, Bahrain, USA, Canada, China, Jordan, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, the Philippines, India etc., to share their experiences.

### 3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

- I think the most important for all of us recently is to get the accreditation as it is an important stage for the future's aspirations.

- In addition I think the success of the new programmes is a shared aspiration with all our colleagues.

### 4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

- The team work even under pressure.

- University administration approach to provide the right environment to reach the desired development.

### 5. Tell us about your hobbies

Reading

- Swimming

- Making new friendships

### 6. Tell us about your favourite food

- Maftool (Palestinian food)

- Koshary (Egyptian food)

- Mandy & Kabsa

### 7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

Recently am reading a book "You are a miserable for a hero" for Bob Powers

### 8. Final words

Thanks for having me.

As human we need the idea to live to have the opportunity to develop to be more than passers of this life.



The conference was structured around posters, lectures and presentations to allow all participants to enter into practical discussion.

## OPEN DAY: PLAN YOUR MAJOR



On 11 December 2017, more than 200 secondary schools pupils from 8 private schools in Bahrain attended our Open Day: Plan your Major that was organized by the Marketing and Students Recruitment Group chaired by Dr Mohamed Yousif with great help from Marketing and Public Affairs, International Partnerships, and Students Council as part of a marketing campaign to recruit students for the second semester of this Academic Year and the first semester of the Academic Year 2018/2019. The event was introduced by Mr Ruqaya and started with a short presentation by the President who gave an overview of ASU and its colleges. This was followed by a video about the University and its facilities. Ms Catherine Hogan, Acting Head of Governance, Strategic Planning & International Partnerships gave a summary about our British Programmes and why students should join these programmes. This was followed by presentations by Dr Nympha Joseph, Programme Coordinator, Accounting and Finance & Dr Marwan Abdeldayem, Programme Coordinator, Management and Business Studies, and Dr Ashraf Hendy, Acting Dean of the College of Engineering, followed by a panel discussion with good contributions from Dr Assem and concluded by a tour of the University and a light lunch.



Various questions were raised by some attendees of the Open Day and this was compiled by Ms Catherine and included the following: ASU's entry requirements, law degrees, medical degrees, scholarships or fee reductions, architecture degrees, cyber-security degrees, recommendation letters from school, how many years does a degree take, what professions/careers would be available after graduating from the Architectural Engineering degree, biochemistry or biomedical degrees, will an applicant with International Baccalaureate have to do the foundation year, what degrees does the College of Arts & Science have, why should someone choose ASU over all the other universities in Bahrain, quality of degrees in relation to other universities, chemical engineering degrees, will the mechanical engineering degree start soon, possibility of sponsorships from the relevant UK university for the British degrees, and graduates and their experiences for future events.



Feedback from the attendees has been collected and will be analyzed by Marketing and Public Affairs in order to learn lessons for future events.





## BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AT APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY ORGANIZED BY THE STUDENTS COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE DEANSHIP OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Applied Science University celebrated the National Day and the Accession of his Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa on 13 December 2017. Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of the University invited all students, staff and guests to celebrate together this wonderful occasion.

Our Students designed and decorated the University in such a way that everyone felt the National Bahraini spirit. The programme included traditional events such as Henna Corner, traditional local stores with Bahraini art, Bahraini food and the traditional Ardha dance. The evening was buzzing with students and guests attending the Khaleeji Poets performances that were extremely appreciated by the enthusiastic audience. There was also a wonderful performance by Mr Mohamed Tamini the Bahraini Singer.

Everyone really enjoyed the successful National Day celebration that was entirely organized by members of the students' council and supervised by Mr Mohammed Najjar and Ms Hadeel Bucheerei from the Deanship of Student Affairs.



## WORKSHOP ON "REIMAGINING STUDENT SERVICES: CREATING AND INNOVATIVE RESPONSIVE STUDENT EXPERIENCE"

Dr Faiza Zitouni Dean of Student Affairs and Acting Assistant VP for Academic Affairs and Development attended a workshop on "Reimagining Student Services: Creating and Innovative Responsive Student Experience" on 11 - 13 December 2017. The workshop that was organized by CLICKS (Center of Learning Innovation & Customized Knowledge Solutions) was extremely interesting and beneficial. The main important areas covered over the three days' workshop including;



(1) The challenges and the change imperatives in student services, where all participating Universities realized that student affairs services share almost the same challenges either within the University or externally due to emergent challenges, various student affairs management models and student affairs seven change dimensions were discussed; (2) Student experience, student lifecycle and the importance of the identification of MOTs ( Moments of Truths) in student lifecycle, walking through the student journey and applying service innovations to improve student experience, for example by using technology and predictive analytics to improve students' learning outcomes in student affairs; (3) identification of critical touch points to reduce services silos and bottlenecks; (4) Increasing vertical and horizontal integration and alignment; (5) Highlights of the best practices and increasing efficiency and effectiveness in student services processes; (6) Managing human capital in student services and enabling competencies for successful student services, (7) Highlighting the imperatives of a student centric culture of leadership and teamwork, using various student services governance model and the four critical organization alignments, namely; (i) alignment of student affairs with core academic units, (ii) alignment of administrative support units and student affairs services, (iii) alignment of student affairs employees at all levels and (vi) alignment with external stakeholders. In other words alignment of student affairs should be carried out within, across and beyond the university taking into consideration value proposition to students and the student affairs learning outcomes at all levels throughout the student life experience and beyond.

## MASTER IN FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING PROGRAMME ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Master in Finance and Accounting Programme held its advisory board meeting for the 1st semester of academic year 2017/2018 on campus. The board discussed topics related to the programme, and members provided recommendations to improve the programme to become one of the leading programmes in the region.



## PROF SAAD DARWISH REPRESENTED ASU IN TAMKEEN CONSULTATION FORUM

Prof Saad Darwish President's Advisor for Special Projects represented ASU in Tamkeen Consultation Forum. Tamkeen announced its new strategy for 2018-2020 which focuses on diversification of offerings, acceleration of delivery, and sustainability of impact.



The strategy aims at assessing the status of the labour market and ways to address its specific needs and gaps.

The strategy, follows a number of research analysis and studies aimed at assessing the status of labour market and ways to address its specific needs Tamkeen is keen on introducing new products and services to better cater to evolving market needs.



Highlighting Tamkeen’s key achievements, Tamkeen served more than 165 thousand individuals and enterprises and launched more than 210 initiatives in different fields, of which 145 serving individuals and 65 serving enterprises.

## THE SECOND ASU STUDENTS GROUP PARTICIPATION IN “CITIZENSHIP AND PARLIAMENTARY CULTURE” TRAINING COURSE



Bahrain Center for Parliamentary Training in the General Secretariat of the Council of Representatives, with the coordination of the Community Engagement Office in Applied Science University and the participation of Political Science Department in the College of Administrative Sciences and Deanship of Students



Affairs held a training course on citizenship and parliamentary culture for the students of Applied Science University, through which students attended weekly sitting of the Council of Representatives to know about the

deliberations and discussions of the manner of running the session and how the topics and proposals are discussed, moreover, the students joined the meeting of the Council of Representatives Services Committee, to see the work of parliamentary committees.

Dr. Mahmoud Khalifa Ibrahim from Political Science Department supervised the students’ during the two days course on 12 and 13 December 2017. The students were awarded for their participation by Mr. Sadam Abu Azam, the Manager of Bahrain Parliamentary Training Center and Mr. Thaer Mustafa AlRamini, on behalf of the Community Engagement Office, provided an appreciation gift to Bahrain Parliamentary Training Center.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE FIRST MEETING FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018

The Community Engagement (CE) Committee held its first meeting for the academic year 2017-2018. Dr. Mohammad Alaa Al-Hamami, the Manager of Community Engagement Office welcomed the new committee members to the first CE Committee meeting and stressed on the importance of the CE Committee and its members to make the CE a success in the University. The meeting discussed the operational plan and how to measure KPI’s for the key objectives, displayed the annual plan that has been approved by Ministry of Education, explained the procedures of events approvals, explained the tasks of the committee members, and displayed what has been achieved from the beginning of the academic year 2017-2018 till now.



## REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Deadline for submitting progress reports for Arts and Science 4 January 2018

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“A sleeping pill will never take the place of a clear conscience.”*

**Eddie Cantor**



*Happy National Day*

*BAHRAIN*

 *Happy Reading!* 