



PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 18th issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.

Over the next few weeks, I will be addressing topics related to the Self Evaluation Report, which is part of the Institutional Accreditation by the HEC, in order to keep our staff and students informed about the content of the report. In this issue of the News Digest, I will be covering an overview of the University and its strengths and weaknesses as documented in the SER template stipulated and provided by the HEC. It is important that all staff and students read carefully the News Digest over the next few weeks (as it will cover information from the SER report) in order to be prepared for the HEC institutional accreditation inspection visit which is most likely that it will happen in the month of April.



Overview (from the SER report)

Applied Science University (ASU) was established as a private university in the Kingdom of Bahrain and it was granted its licence by the Ministry of Education according to the decree issued by the Minister's Council (No. WD 140/2004) dated 5th July 2004. ASU aspires to become one of the leading universities in the Kingdom of Bahrain and in the wider Gulf region.

At its formation, ASU was located in Al-Juffair and organized into three colleges (College of Administrative Sciences, College of Arts and Science, College of Law); ASU's first cohort of students graduated in 2007. ASU moved to its current campus at El-Eker in 2013, having grown and diversified its programme offering to meet increasing demand. In 2017, ASU began to offer four new British degree programmes: two within the College of Administrative Sciences in partnership with Cardiff Metropolitan University; and two within the newly-established College of Engineering in partnership with London South Bank University.

In 2015, ASU joined the top-tier universities in the HEC Annual Report ranking, and in 2016 it was successfully listed on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Register. In 2017, ASU held its tenth graduation ceremony, bringing the number of graduates since establishment to 3396.

In the last 14 years since its establishment, ASU has been working to deliver a high-quality educational experience allowing students to develop the knowledge and skills required to obtain a university degree and which will enable them to succeed in an increasingly competitive marketplace, as part of our contribution to the goals expressed in Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and the Kingdom's National Higher Education and Research Strategies 2014-2024. As a result, ASU has enjoyed steady growth and a solid market share amongst Bahrain's private universities and now has 3115 current students (as of September 2017) and a growing reputation in the region and internationally.

The University's **strengths** are related to:

- Governance and Management
- High Quality Teaching and Learning
- Wide Variety of Market-Oriented Programmes
- Hosted British Programmes and International Partners
- State-of-the-art Campus and Facilities
- Student Life and Community Engagement
- Robust Quality Assurance and Accreditation System

The University's **weaknesses** are related to:

- Sports Facilities
- Research Commercialisation
- International/Regional League Tables
- Accessibility of publicly available national statistics and ranking data to provide more extensive benchmarking

BAHRAIN SPORTS DAY – VOLUNTEERING CLUB

On 13 February 2018, ASU Volunteer Club members took part in the organisation of the sports activities mainly color run, basketball, football amongst other activities during Bahrain Sports. The event was under the Patronage of H.H Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Chairman of Supreme Council for Youth & Sports, President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee & Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Charity Organization and was held in the Bahrain National Stadium.



INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Ayat Nass

Position: Executive Secretary of the President's Office

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

I come from a big family which consists of 9 brothers and sisters. I am the spoiled girl among them all. I have always had phobias of reptiles mainly snakes, and heights.

I graduated from high school, scientific sector, and then obtained my diploma in IT. I also took extra courses to learn new skills and enhance and strengthen my existing skills.

I am married with 2 children, a boy and a girl, who are the shining lights in my life.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I have been working at ASU for more than 9 years and I consider myself one of the oldest staff here. I have joined ASU early 2009 as Secretary at the College of Administrative Sciences. I have worked in many other different departments within ASU like PR, HR, Reception, and admissions before I moved to the President's Office, where I have been there for more than 7 years.

Initially, I worked with Prof Waheeb Alkhaja, ASU's Former President, from 2011 until 2014, who gave me the opportunity and trust to handle the President's office and therefore gave me more confidence in myself. I learnt a lot from his vision and leadership.

ARAB IMPACT FACTOR

Dr. Baha El-Din Makkawi, Head of the Political Science Department, was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of the Arab Impact Factor.

Arab impact factor is a measure of the importance of the scientific journals within the field of its research specialization. The project was established under the umbrella of The Association of Arab Universities, and deals with the measurement of scientific journals in the Arabic language.



HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING AT THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



On Thursday, 1 March 2018 the College of Engineering hosted the health and safety department representatives from NASS contracting to deliver a training to the Engineering students and academic staff members. The

training was started by a welcome speech from David Anthony the general manager of NASS contracting and Professor Ghassan Aouad the President of Applied Science University highlighting the importance of health and safety in general and specifically in construction sites.

The training is an essential part of 2 taught modules offered this semester namely Study Skills and Professional Practice taught by Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Constructing the Built Environment taught by Dr Ashraf Hendy, Dean of the College of Engineering. The training was also attended by Dr Islam Abohela, Head of the Civil and Architectural Engineering Department and Dr Mohammed Assiadi, Coordinator of the Civil and Construction Engineering Programme and they both took the final assessment for the training along with the College of Engineering students. Successfully attending the training and passing the assessment will grant the attendees permission to access construction sites with proper knowledge of basic health and safety regulations in construction sites. The training covered:

- Workers' individual responsibilities for their own safety and the safety of others
- Typical construction hazards and how these are controlled

In 2013, I had the honour to work with Prof Ghassan Aouad, who joined as ASU's new President.

Prof Ghassan embraced me with his simplicity and leadership. He unleashed my potentials to achieve my goals through open communication and dialogue.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

The University is climbing the ladder of success in achieving its goal and become a leading University in Bahrain and the region.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love the friendly and multinational atmosphere at the University; we feel like at home as one family.

We are given the opportunity to innovate at work with the motivation of our President who is a true leader.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

I love painting and dancing. I do henna, and I like to do make up.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

I love all types of pasta, in addition to Thai cuisine. I also like to eat bananas.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

Unfortunately, I don't have time to sit and relax and read a book due to my busy time spent with my children and dealing with their studies; however I read topics on Key to Success in general.

8. Final words

I wish ASU prosperity and success and all the good luck to achieve accreditation. **ASU: Achievements – Success – Uniqueness.**

- How everyone can help achieve better practical standards of safety on site
- Legal requirements and liabilities
- Working at height
- Manual Handling
- Fire prevention
- Work equipment
- Occupational Health

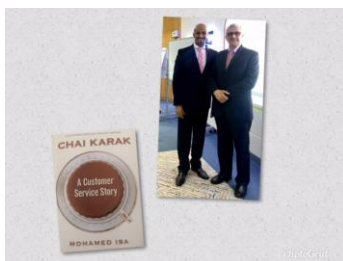
The training started at 09:00 and lasted for 7.5 hours in addition to the assessment. The training was well received by the engineering students and academic staff members. The instructor was keen on getting all the attendees involved in the case studies discussed and expressed his satisfaction with the involvement of the attendees in the discussions.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE MEETING AT HEC

On February 2018, Dr Faiza Zitouni, Dean of Students Affairs, and Prof Saad Darwish, President’s Advisor attended a workshop titled “Knowledge Exchange in Entrepreneurship” at HEC which was attended by the Secretary General of HEC, Dr. Abdulghani Al Showaikh and Director of Evaluation & Follow-up, Mrs. Nadya Buqais. Dr Faiza and Prof Saad who gave a joint lecture about the University strategy on Entrepreneurship and its implementation and ways of promotion also shared ASU’s continuous achievements with the audience.



LAUNCH OF “CHAI KARAK” BOOK



On 27 February, Prof Saad Darwish, President’s Advisor, attended the launch of “Chai Karak” a book written by Mr. Mohammed Isa, a coach and a professional public speaker. The book shows the reader how to instill a customer-centric culture. It explains how to attract and retain more customers, create loyal customers for life, convert complaints into opportunities, fuel your innovation pipeline and win the customer service game. Mr Mohammed stated that customer service starts with leadership and communication. Many entrepreneurs and SME’s attended this inspiring lecture which gave insights for future entrepreneurs.

IEEE STUDENT CHAPTER

On 24 February 2018 the Executive Committee (ExCOM) of IEEE Bahrain Section has met and successfully lunched the submission of application to establish the IEEE Student Chapter at ASU. The meeting was attended by Dr. Belal Zaqaibeh, the Vice-Chair, Dr. Ali Zolait, the Secretary, and Mrs. Hanan Saleh, the Treasurer. Dr. Adel A. H. Abdulla, who is the Chair of IEEE Bahrain Section, helped immensely in establishing the student chapter and wished all members success.



Thirteen students under the supervision of Dr. Moaiad Khder, HoD of Computer Science, have registered from the Department of Computer Science.

The College of Arts and Science is working closely with its students to achieve its objectives in research and community engagement. There are several projects that are proposed by the College and its students that will take effect in the coming few weeks under the umbrella of IEEE.

Student branches are crucial to the growth and development of IEEE Student members. Student branches create a local network of students and give students the opportunity to meet and learn from fellow students, as well as faculty members and professionals in the field. Student branches offer numerous educational, technical, and professional advantages to IEEE Student members through the special projects, activities, meetings, tours, and field trips. However, these activities and advantages aren't done without the effort, labor, and diligence of volunteers.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE VISITS THE SOUTHERN GOVERNORATE POLICE DIRECTORATE

The Community Engagement Office at Applied Science University represented by Mr. Thaer AlRamini, member of the office, visited the Southern Governorate Police Directorate and met with the Head of Community Service Police Department, and discussed opportunities of cooperation between the two parties.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE VISITS THE YOUTH CREATIVITY CENTER



The Community Engagement Office at Applied Science University represented by Mr. Thaer AlRamini, member of the office, visited the Youth Creativity Center and met with the Head of the Center, and discussed opportunities of cooperation between the two parties.

BAHRAIN NATIONAL CHARTER FESTIVAL

Applied Science University attended the celebrations of the 17th anniversary of the Bahrain National Charter at a major celebration at the headquarters of the National Charter in Sakhir, where many governmental and private institutions, schools and universities participated. Mr Thaer Ramini and students from ASU attended this great event.



The event started with a walk for school students raising the photos of His Majesty the King, followed by sports and cultural activities.

The celebration started from 9:00am until about 5:00pm and was attended by HE the Minister of Education, Dr. Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi and a large number of officials from the Ministry and representatives of public and private Universities.

After the festival, a grand ceremony was held at the Roman Theater in the honor of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. On this occasion, His Majesty the King expressed his thanks and appreciations to the participants who made the event very successful. His Majesty also praised the celebration of national values that reflect the efforts exerted by educational institutions in shaping the culture of national belonging.

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING EXHIBITION

Ms Noora Musalam, Manager of Career Development and Alumni Affairs Office in the Deanship of Student Affairs organised an extremely successful "Recruitment and Training Exhibition" on Sunday, 25 February 2018 that was under



the Patronage of HE Mr. Jameel Bin Mohamed Ali Humaidan, the Minister of Labor and Social Development and the invitation was under Professor Ghassan Aouad the University President.



Mr. Jameel Bin Mohamed Ali Humaidan opened the exhibition and honoured the governmental and private institutions that participated. A great support was apparent throughout the event from Professor Waheeb Alkhaja, the Chairman of the Board of trustees, Professor Ghassan Aouad the University President, the Vice Presidents, and the Deans.

Twenty-six companies participated from both the public and private sector. A large number of students who attended the event were very pleased with the event that offered them potential great job and training opportunities.



ASU PARTICIPATING IN H.H SHEIKH NASSER BIN HAMAD SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP FOR BAHRAINI UNIVERSITIES

Under the Patronage of H.H Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa and organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, a sports championship for Bahraini Universities started from 25-2-2018 until 17-3-2018.



The championship consists of five sports for male and female students where all universities in the Kingdom of Bahrain are participating and competing in the following sports; Indoor football for men, Volleyball for men, Indoor football for women, Basketball for women, Marathon for both male and female.



In order to prepare the championship, the Ministry of Youth and Sports held several meetings with representatives of Student Affairs from Bahraini Universities, amongst them Mr. Mohammed Al Najjar, the Manager of Student Services Office. The second meeting was hosted at Applied Science University in the presence of Prof. Ghassan Aouad, Dr. Assem Al-Hajj, Dr. Faiza Zitouni, Mr. Abdullah Alkhaja, Student Affairs members and Student Council Members.

The Deanship of Student Affairs managed to compile teams to participate in all the above mentioned sports. The selected teams started their training and preparations during the week commencing 11 February 2018 under the supervision of the Student Services Office; Mr Mohammed Al Najjar, Mr Thaeer Ramini, and Ms Hadeel Bucheerei. All ASU wishes to our participating teams a great success.

Training the teams

Starting the week commencing on 11 February 2018, the teams started their training sessions



The Championship Toss Ceremony



On the 22 February 2018, the Ministry of Youth and Sports conducted a toss in Arab Open University at 6:15pm. All participating universities attended the ceremony and the results were as follow:



Matches



On 25 February 2018, the matches started. Applied Science University first match was on Sunday 25 February 2018 against the University of Bahrain.



On 26 February 2018, Applied Science University volleyball team played against Bahrain Polytechnic.



HEALTH DAY

Under the patronage of Professor Ghassan Fouad Aouad, President of the Applied Science University, a “Health Day” was carried out in cooperation with the team of Pulse of Life Ambulance. The event was organized by the Office of Student Services at the Deanship of Student Affairs on 20 February 2018 and supervised by Mr Thaer Ramini .



At the beginning of the Health Day, Professor Ghassan delivered a welcome speech to the students, academic, administrative staff and the life-saving team of the ambulance. He highlighted

the importance of such event at the University by adding “a healthy brain is in a healthy body and such event creates health awareness and positive attitude at the University”.

At the event, there were various stations including; health & nutrition, neck syndrome and methods of prevention, dentist and hygienist, ophthalmology, first aid, basic sugar and blood pressure tests. More than 320 individuals participated in this successful event.



STATEMENT OF TEACHING PHILOSOPHY – DR ABDUL-JABBAR MUSAAFIR

My teaching philosophy is derived mainly from my own, relatively long, teaching experience as a teacher of linguistics, translation, and English language skills, as well as from my personal recollections of the experience of the teachers who made a lasting impact on my teaching career.

I believe that teaching is, to a large extent, a skill. However, I have had a lot to learn as a teacher. I have learned tips and tricks from my old and young colleagues, and I have learned a lot from my students over the years. Naturally, I am well-aware of the fact that there is a lot more to teaching than caring about the subject and the students, and putting on a good show.

I am passionate about the subjects I teach and about teaching in general; I do my best to make my lectures and classes interesting, well-organized, vivid and easy to follow. Naturally, my teaching style varies depending on the level of my students as well as on the size of the class.

I start each class by helping my students to give a brief overview of the last lecture. Having made sure that the points I would like them to include in this overview are mentioned and highlighted, I present, then, a short preview of what I am going to talk about and for what purpose or objective within the general frame of the intended learning outcomes of the course.

In order to overcome problems caused by 'memory' and to keep myself organized and help manage class time efficiently, I tend to prepare sufficient notes for my lectures in addition to integrating the use of technology (such as data show) into my teaching. After finishing my classes I, immediately, record what worked and what did not. Although I have been rarely asked to teach the same material again during the last eight years, I have formed a habit of looking back to my old notes for ideas.

I feel I am quite efficient in the management of classroom behaviour. I don't recall any single incident where I failed in handling problematic cases. In this respect, the first and second lectures are very important. I have developed the ability to sense and identify potential 'trouble-makers'. Their names are the first which I do my best to remember by name and ask them to quiet down, or asking certain students not to sit next to each other. I have never resorted to asking students to leave.

In the evaluation of my students, I spare no effort to be fair and I want my students to feel this. I am absolutely sure that the tests I prepare match the material taught and contain no errors.

Finally, what might define me most as a teacher is that I care deeply about each and every one of my students, and want them to know this. I always ask my students whether they understand me when I explain what I feel a difficult point. If that is the case, I try to explain it again in a different way.

I take notes of who of my students said what and, when appropriate, I make references later, such as "Now can anyone answer Sara's question", or "As Ahmed commented last time..."

My ultimate goal is to make each course I teach a small personal triumph for me and for every one of my students, no matter where they come from and where they are going to work.

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

- SER Institutional Accreditation Report, 8 March 2018
- Program Review Visits for Arts and Science, 11 March 2018

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“You have to rely on your preparation. You got to really be passionate and try to prepare more than anyone else, and put yourself in a position to succeed, and when the moment comes you got to enjoy, relax, breathe and rely on your preparation so that you can perform and not be anxious or filled with doubt.”

Steve Nash

