

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from the President
- Meeting with Alumni Club Board of Directors
- Meeting with Alumni Club Board of Directors and Student Council Members
- Meeting with Tamkeen
- Interview of the Week
 - Dr Nadya Abdulgabbar Alshareeda
- Interview with Alumnus
- Quote of the Week

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 13th issue of the 4th year of the President's News Digest. In this issue of the News Digest, I will address the subject of “strategic planning in the higher education sector”.



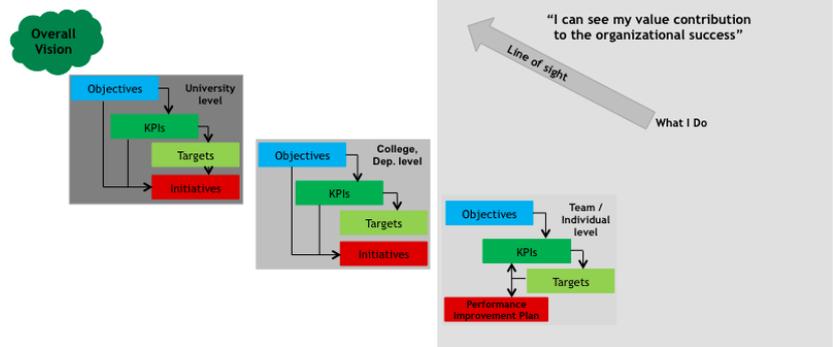
According to the (US) Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), a strategic plan for a higher education institution is a continuous process that aims to achieve a full engagement culture inside the organization that would lead it to excellence.

Mission, vision, values, strategic goals and implementation plans including KPIs need to be addressed as part of developing a strategic plan. Techniques such as environmental scanning, SWOT analysis, brainstorming workshops and existing relevant documentation could be used to develop such a plan. Various stakeholders should be involved in developing the strategic plan. BOT members, staff, students, advisory board members, students’ council, industry representatives, alumni and others could be used as part of the consultation process.

A full alignment between the University, Colleges and Departments, and the individuals working in the University should be achieved. This is illustrated in the included diagram.

ALIGNING THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Alignment within the organization



The full cycle of strategic planning, operational planning, budgeting, and individual staff appraisal should be considered and feedback is addressed. This is illustrated in the diagram below.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



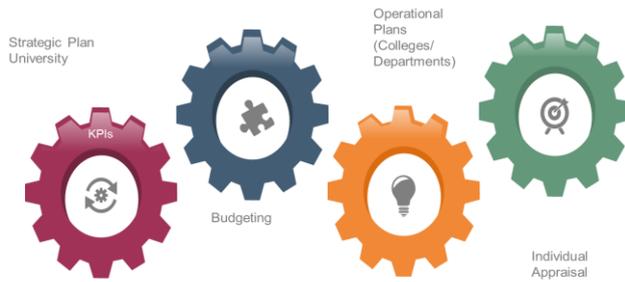
Name: Dr Nadya Abdulgabbbar Alshareeda

Position: Manager of Counselling Office

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

I was born in Baghdad, and my childhood was wonderful with a big family. I got married right after I completed my Secondary school. This pushed me to handle more responsibilities, but with a big support from my husband. I completed both my Bachelor and Master degrees from the University of Baghdad, and was ranked first amongst my fellows. During my stay in Bahrain, I worked as faculty member in the Accounting Department at Gulf University for 3 years. In addition, I am the first woman from Bahrain, who became a Certified Cost Accountant from ICCA in 2013. I joined Applied Science University in the same year.

After I got my 3 children, I decided to pursue my postgraduate education, and in Jan. 2018, I got my PhD in Accounting of Islamic Banks from World Islamic Sciences University. My thesis is titled "The Impact of commitment to requirements of General presentation and disclosure standard on achieving competitive advantage (An applied study in Kingdom of Bahrain Islamic banks)". This is the first PhD done in Accounting Islamic Standards in Bahrain. Several months back, I completed the Higher Education Academy Application, and I have become HEA Fellow with the support of my University. Finally, last September, I passed the International Exam and became a certified Shari'a Adviser & Auditor (CSAA.), and became AAOIFI-CSAA fellow member. This Certificate stands as an important international professional Certificate in the Islamic Banking Industry.



Strategic planning is vital for the success of any university. It should be conducted with rigor based on evidence and taking into account futurology and scenario planning techniques.

<https://www.u-planner.com/blog/how-strategic-planning-helps-higher-education-accreditation>

MEETING WITH ALUMNI CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS



On Thursday 24 January 2019, the Deanship of Student Affairs conducted a meeting with student council members and the Alumni Club Board of Directors to discuss the upcoming mutual events between them and the

Alumni Club Board of Director.

MEETING WITH ALUMNI CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On Thursday 24 January 2019, the Deanship of Student Affairs organized a meeting with the Alumni Club Board of Directors to discuss the club upcoming year plan and events.



MEETING WITH TAMKEEN



On Wednesday 23 January 2019, the Career Development and the Alumni Affairs Office in the Deanship of Student Affairs organized a meeting with Tamkeen to discuss cooperation in different fields that help and

support students and graduates. Different programmes were discussed and clarifications were made on certain topics, where they could provide training, support projects and conduct workshops. Some of Tamkeen programmes and workshops were taken into consideration and were added to the Deanship plan. Also, to achieve one of the Community Engagement office goals, an initiative was introduced to sign an agreement between Tamkeen and ASU, as some members from the

Community Engagment Office were present in the meeting. The meeting was very fruitful and beneficial.

INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS



Name:	Mohammed Abdulaziz ALmehaiza
Workplace:	Recently graduated, currently unemployed
Academic Degree	Bachelor
Academic Major	Law
Do you intend to pursue further Higher Education? What Major?	Yes, Masters in Law or Political Science
Tell us about your Experience at ASU in terms of learning environment and teaching methods.	The main reason for joining a university is to get an academic qualification, but personally, I think that participating in workshops and conferences organized by ASU had a significant contribution in self-developing through cultural awareness, establishing new connections, self-management, planning and resourcefulness. These skills all contributed to developing my ability to thrive in today's labor market.
What did you enjoy the most about your experience at ASU?	One of the main aspects of the university experience is learning to be an independent and responsible young adult. So, with this new-found responsibility, I began to learn more about what it is like to be in the 'adult' world, as well as, learning about and improving some crucial life skills like time management.
Tell us a success story inspired by ASU.	The academic work, social side of things and developing as a person are equally important. I had to learn to balance my academic work and social life.
In your Opinion, What are the Improvement areas you would like to see at ASU in the future?	I suggest that ASU should offer the lectures on the E-learning portal for students' reference so they can refer to them in future.
Final words	I wish continued success to ASU.

Interviewed By: Maheera Faisal, Alumni Affairs Committee Chair; ASU Alumni Club

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"A vision without a strategy remains an illusion."
Lee Bolman

Happy Reading!

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

Currently, I am the Manager of the Counselling Office. My role is to provide support to students for a balanced healthy life, and help them make the most of their University experience. In addition, I am a faculty member in the Accounting and Finance Department since 2013.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

I want to see ASU continue to build its strong reputation, to become one of the top ranked universities in the region, as it is currently one of the best universities in Bahrain. I also want to see each one of our students achieving their educational dreams and graduate from the University instilled with the desire to be lifelong learners.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

The one thing that pleases me most is when I solve the students' problems, by giving them the advice and support to overcome them.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

-Participating in conferences and workshops related to Accounting and Islamic Banks inside and outside Bahrain; in addition to attending workshops related to student counselling.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

Grilled food

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

"Grading and Learning: Practices That Support Student Achievement", by Dr. Susan M. Brookhart. This book illustrates ways teachers can shift their practices to conduct accurate, constructive assessments that not only maintain the integrity of essential education objectives, but also motivate students and enhance learning.

8. Final words

I wish more and more success to my beloved ASU, under our wise and efficient management guidance.