



PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 13th issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.



I am pleased to inform you that we received an official letter last Thursday from the HEC informing us that our application for accreditation has passed their scrutiny stage (Stage 1).

Stage 2 will involve submitting the Self Evaluation Report (SER) within 4 weeks of receiving the letter, which is last Thursday 25 January. Following the submission of the SER, an accreditation visit (Stage 3) will take place most likely in the months of March or April. This is fantastic news for us and we should all work hard within a team spirit to achieve this important task. During the visit the accreditation panel will seek views from students, staff and other stakeholders about their experiences of the University.

We should all be aware of the benefits of accreditation and the areas to be assessed. Students should be at the heart of all what we do.

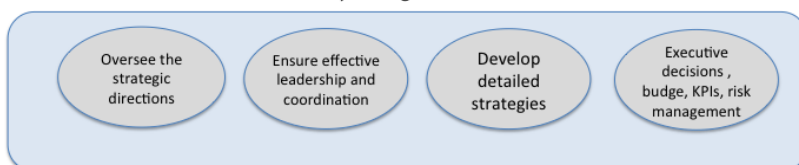
The benefits of accreditation can be summarized as follows:

- Accreditation is a stamp of quality
- Accreditation means students will get their degrees from an accredited university
- Accreditation is excellent marketing and student recruitment tool
- Accreditation means parents, students, staff and other stakeholders have more confidence in the University
- Accreditation is a boost to our reputation
- Accreditation means ASU gets Listing in the HEC Institutional Directory
- Accreditation supports out long-term sustainability
- A reminder of the areas to be inspected is shown below:

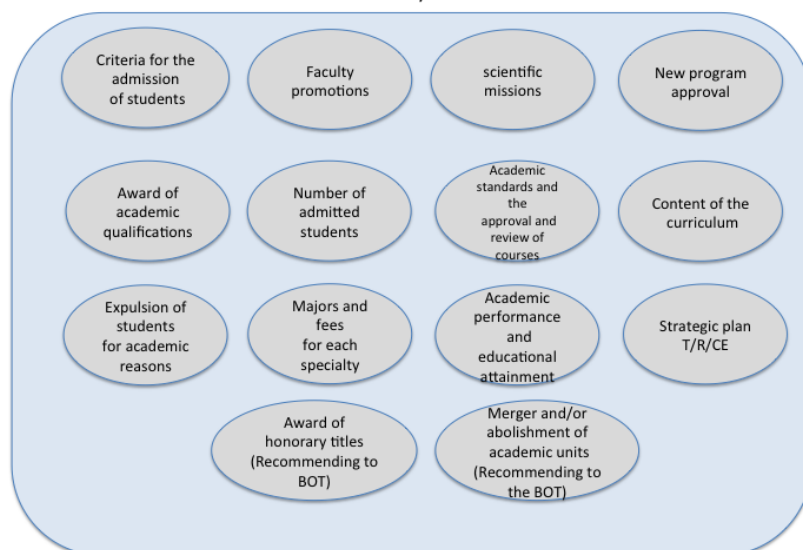
Areas	Standards	Key Indicators
1. Governance, Strategy and Financial Management	3	18
2. Academic Management and Administration	4	43
3. Teaching, Learning and Assessment	4	27
4. Research, Scholarship and Innovation	2	12
5. Economy and Society Impact	3	14
6. Student Recruitment, Support, Guidance and Progression	8	43
7. Premises, Facilities and Learning Resources	6	37
8. Quality Management, Assurance and Enhancement	3	24
Total	33	218

Our councils and committees structure enable us to perform our academic and administrative tasks by proving the right mechanism for good governance and management. In order to help our colleagues visually read the terms of reference of these committees and councils, the Head of Governance and Strategic Planning created schematic representations of these committees and councils. Just few examples are listed below:

University management committee



University Council



INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Hasan Abdulameer Salman Husain

Position: Driver

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

I was raised in a big family where we all lived in one building.

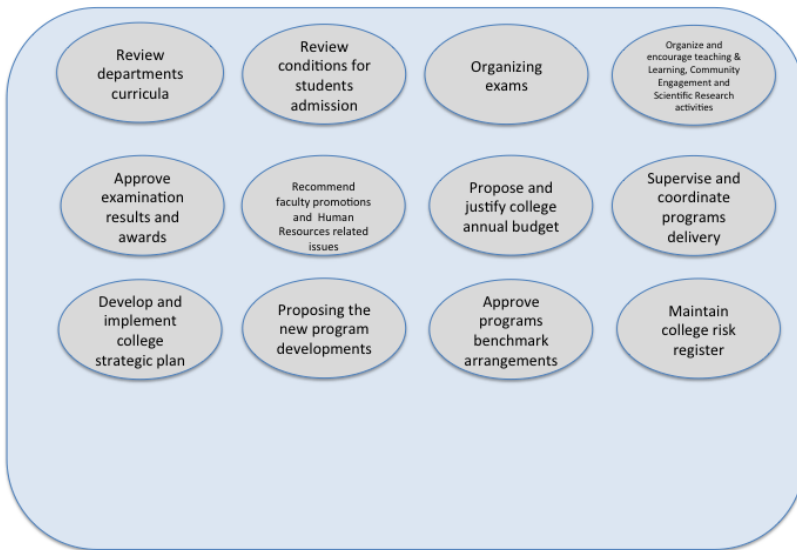
After I finished my Industrial Secondary School, I worked in different companies before I joined ASU in 2013.

I took evening courses to enhance my skills. I was also enrolled in Tamkeen programme and received additional training at ASU like, communication skills, Customer Service and English Language, etc.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I joined ASU in 2013 as a Driver; I deliver correspondence to government authorities like the HEC, other ministries and banks. I sometimes provide transportation to staff if needed and required.

College Council



Finally, in any accreditation visit or program review or any quality assessment task, an audit trail could be conducted to see how we are closing the loops. Activities like surveys, program approval, and staff development could be targeted. Let's take few examples:

1. Students Satisfaction Surveys: once a survey is conducted, a proper analysis needs to be undertaken with recommendations to respond to students' suggestions. The survey action plan should go to the Student Experience Committee then Quality Assurance & Accreditation Council and University Council as part of the approval process. The action plan will need to be monitored by the Deanship of Student Affairs and the loop must be closed for all actions. A similar approach will need to be applied to all other surveys: exit, alumni, employer, etc.
2. Students' evaluation of staff: the results need to be analyzed and an action plan needs to be produced to help our colleagues perform better. The plans need to go through the appropriate committees.
3. Class observations, good teaching conference, staff development plans will also need to be produced and monitored
4. All audit reports should result in action plans that are monitored in order to close the loop.

Perhaps closing the loop is one of the most important activities in ensuring that action plans are developed and monitored.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

I hope to see ASU open new programmes and branches.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the teamwork and the good spirit. I also feel good when I get most important priorities done and accomplished on time.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

- Horse riding
- Motorbike riding
- Fishing
- Passion to cars
- Travelling

6. Tell us about your favourite food

All Bahraini food.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

I read poems of famous Arab poets.

8. Final words

I wish ASU the best of luck.

THE GOOD TEACHING CONFERENCE FOR ITS 2ND RUN, AS PART OF THE CONTINUOUS STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



On Sunday, 21 January 2018, the Academic Staff Development Unit (ASDU) has organised the Good Teaching Conference for its 2nd year with the aim to create a culture by which all academic staff share their good teaching practices. The atmosphere was buzzing with positivity and everyone really enjoyed the conference. There was a clear improvement from last year, and this is



also clearly reflecting on the academics teaching performances and staff evaluation. This year, some presenters went an extra mile where creativity and innovation was on the agenda. The College of Arts and Science exhibited its fantastic art work, in addition, Dr Ahmed Hassan Mahmoud presented live marbling technique and Dr Wadhah Yahya played Violin in class to mix and harmonise the effect of music on the design process. There was also creativity with new presentation technologies used by many academics and that made their overall presentations clearer and more appealing.



A panel consisting of three academic members and one panel leader, was selected to evaluate every presentation at every session, and this was based on the following dimensions, including; (1) knowledge of the subject and providing real life examples, (2) ability to achieve the intended learning outcome(s), (3) ability to interact with the audience and answer questions, (4) start and finish on time, (5) innovation and creativity in teaching. Almost all academic staff at the University presented to a large audience, representing 94 percent attendance level, this clearly shows their commitment in staff development and their readiness for institutional accreditation. A ceremony awarding certificates was also organized on 25 January 2018 as a token of appreciation to celebrate together the great work achieved by all the academic staff.



“THE GOOD TEACHING CONFERENCE” RECOGNITION CEREMONY

As a nice gesture, the University held last Thursday, 25 January 2018 a ceremony to recognise all the academic members who participated in the “The Good Teaching Conference” held on Sunday, 21 January 2018.



This was the second round of the conference. The first one took place in the previous academic year 2016-2017. Comparing between both conferences, we notice that this one showed improvement in the performance of the academic staff and a better morale and acceptance of the importance of the event.



The ceremony was under the Patronage of Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of the University and attended by Dr. Assem Al-Hajj, VP for Academic Affairs and Development, College Deans and most of ASU academic staff members.

The event was marvelously organised by the staff of the Deanship of Student Affairs and contained a remarkable video of the conference with photo shots of all academics during their presentations, accompanied with an enthusiastic and well-chosen piece of music.



At the beginning, Professor Ghassan Aouad delivered a speech clarifying the important role of the conference for the accreditation process. In addition he highlighted the vital role of academics in learning from each other and enhancing their teaching/ learning skills, which would be reflected on their educational professional practice.

This was followed by a poem delivered by Professor Murad Aljanabi related to the conference and showing the harmony that existed during the Good Teaching Conference.

The President of the University handed over certificates of participation to staff members, and special certificates awarded to best presenters from different sessions who were: Dr Nympha Joseph, Mr Noel Lavin, Dr Wadah, Dr Atheelah ALAzawi, Mahmood Sabry and Dr Faiza Zitouni.



Furthermore, the President handed over copies of the Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures (ICSF) to those academics who presented their papers during the Conference that was organised by ASU last November in the Grove hotel and was attended by numerous prestigious academics from more than 60 countries around the globe.

The last part of the event involved a group picture of the academics to commemorate the ceremony that had its positive impact on the morale of the University’ academic staff members, and hoping to see them again in the coming round of the “Good Teaching Conference No 3”.

The event was a great success, many thanks to the excellent MC of the event Mrs Ruqaya Mohsin, and the organising team; Dr Adel Al-Samman, Dr Faiza Zitouni, Ms Hadeel Bucheiri, and Mr Francis.

A CEREMONY TO HONOUR OUR STUDENTS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE 6TH EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION

Under the Patronage of Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of the University, an honouring ceremony was organised on Thursday 25 January 2018 to celebrate with our students who participated in the success of the sixth cultural educational exhibition "our Flags". The exhibition presented various cultures and traditions of 14 countries and this is aligned with the vision of His Majesty King Hamad Al Khalifa to open up to other societies and to promote respect, coexistence between various cultures and religions. This type of educational event supports our students' educational development and enables them to connect in class learnt theory with application and practice through informal learning.



The President of the University Professor Ghassan Aouad, the Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Faiza Zitouni, the Dean of the College of Arts and Science Dr. Belal Al-Zaqaibeh and a number of academic and administrative staff attended this great event to support and encourage our students. Many thanks to Dr. Rawya, who organised an excellent educational exhibition and this honoring event.

ASU INVITED TO THE OPENING OF THE FAMILY COURTS COMPLEX

Staff and students of the College of Law were invited to HRH Princess Sabeeka, wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women, opening Family Courts Complex in Al-Hananiyah on Thursday 25 January 2018. Dr Khaled Gamal Ahmed Hassan, the Dean of the College of law, Professor Murad Al-Janabi, Dr Mohaned Ahmed Mahmoud Sanouri and Dr Faiza Zitouni the Dean of Students Affairs, and 5 students attended the opening. The new complex is planned to deliver fast services and provide a big boost to protect family rights and reinforce social stability in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



LEARNING INSPIRES BUSINESS

Prof Saad Darwish teaches the Entrepreneurship course for ASU's Master's in Human Resource Management (MHRM). He recently attended a Conference on renewal energy, where he met Mr Jaber Al-Rowaie, who is currently following the MHRM. In their conversation, Mr Jaber discussed the inspiration he has received from his programme and how career and success to his programme at ASU.

He said: "It all started when I started my master's degree here in ASU. I began thinking...serious thoughts. You, Professor Saad, as my course tutor, gave me the insight that when creating a business it must offer the best. Not only was I inspired, but the challenge to "create a difference" drove me to making my business a reality.



"Then I met a serious environment and sustainability advocate in Bahrain. She was not only passionate about environmental causes for Bahrain, in addition her energy and enthusiasm to campaign for greener technology adaptations and bring solutions is a mission for ever...



“I think inspirations are part of our life... we look everywhere for them. Be it a situation, someone of reputation and respectability, we derive inspirations to keep our life meaningful. When the inspiration relates to business, it moves us forward and makes us productive.”

This is indeed true! Thanks to a combination of the ASU MHRM, Prof Saad’s insight and the inspirational green energy advocate, Mr Jaber now runs a successful business called Solar Power Trading, which brings solar power to homes and businesses in Bahrain. The company’s motto is a great inspiration for sustainability: Green your power, save the environment, protect the future generations. As Mr Jaber says: “The power of sun is free, use it!”

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Submission of the Self Evaluation Report for HEC accreditation, 22 February 2018

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Try to achieve the impossible and direct your people to ways of achieving it.”

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

