



PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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What's **INSIDE** this ISSUE

- Message from the President
- Community Engagement Office received Yasmeen Global Initiative for Women's Economic Empowerment
- Orientation Day
- ASU participating in H.H Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad - Sports championship for Bahraini universities
- "The Parliamentary Conference National Action Charter"
- Parliamentary Forum on the National Action Charter
- King Hamad Global Centre
- Meeting with the Alumni Club to Organize the Upcoming Job Fair
- Dr Islam Abohela - Teaching Philosophy
- Interview of the Week
 - Arafat Hussein Khasharmeh
- Reminder of the Week
 - Submission of the SER HEC accreditation report, 22 February 2018
- Quote of the Week



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 15th issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.



In this issue, I will be addressing the topic of preparing lesson plans. Many universities are now adopting a structured approach to delivering education in the classrooms through detailed lesson plans. The University of Cardiff in the UK provides some good guidelines of how to prepare lesson plans.

“Your lesson plan should provide a practical framework which you can follow during the lesson. It should also enable a colleague to deliver a session in your absence – make sure that lesson plans are shared in a location accessible to all potential teachers of the lesson”, <http://sites.cardiff.ac.uk/ilrb/handbook/planning/lesson-plan/>

A lesson plan should include:

- Course title, session title, and date and time of session
- Number of students
- Aims and learning outcomes
- Checklist of items to bring or things to set up at the start of the session, including:
 - Handouts to be distributed
 - Evaluation sheets
 - Equipment that needs to be set up
 - Any other special instructions
- Sub-headings together with timing guidelines
- Details of activities/how the students will learn

A sample of the University of Cardiff's lesson plan template was circulated to all staff few months back.



“Creating a lesson plan is an important aspect of instructional design. Lesson plans allow professors to create learning objectives, organize and deliver course content, and plan and prepare learning activities and materials. It also outlines the type of informal or formal assessment methods professors will use in their classrooms”

<http://www.algonquincollege.com/profres/lesson-planning/>

Ideally lesson plans for the entire course should be produced at the beginning of the course. Copies of the lesson plans should be kept with program administrator (according to the Accreditation Handbook) in order to allow students to have access to these lesson plans or to enable a colleague to deliver a lecture in your absence.

When visiting classes, any accreditation or quality assessment panels, will check the lesson plans first in order to ensure that students are fully supported to achieve the intended learning outcomes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE RECEIVED YASMEEN GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



On 1 February 2018, Dr. Mohammad Alaa Al-Hamami, Manager of the Community Engagement Office at Applied Science University received Ms. Zahra Baqer, Regional Director of Yasmeen Global Initiative for Women's Economic Empowerment and CEO of Zari International CC.

During the visit, a meeting was held to discuss ways of cooperation between the two sides.

ORIENTATION DAY

On 4 February 2018, the Deanship of Student Affairs organized an orientation day for the new enrolled students in the second semester of the academic year 2017/2018. The event was divided into two parts; the first one was in Abdulla Nass hall, where an introduction was given by Prof. Ghassan Aouad,



INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Arafat Hussein Khasharmeh

Position: Head of financial Affairs

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

I was born in Ajloun, one of the greatest cities in Jordan that is called the Heaven of Jordan due to its beautiful nature.

I finished my High school with highest grades and completed my Bachelor degree from Yarmouk University with Major in accounting and sub-major in Administration.

I lived in the UK for about 6 years and in the USA for almost 10 years.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I am the Head of the Financial Affairs at ASU. I started working at ASU in April 2015 until now.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

I hope that we get the Accreditation and to be on the top of all universities in Bahrain and the whole region.

I have faith that we will succeed with our continuous hard work.



the University President, as he talked about the organizational chart, the vision and mission, accreditation then followed by Dr. Assem Al-Hajj, the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Development who introduced the colleges, their organizational chart and the programmes. Dr. Faiza Zitouni, the Dean of Student Affairs introduced the members of the Deanship of Student Affairs and the Student Council, and spoke about the student support services offered by the Deanship and the student clubs available, highlighting that our students are the center of all our activities. Dr. Isa Alkhayyat, the Dean of Admissions and Registration explained about the admissions and registration procedures, academic advising, forms and the bylaws that the students should be aware of. Mr. Noushad Adulhameed, the Head of Health and Safety mentioned about the important health and safety procedures, emergency contacts followed by a Question and Answer session.

The second part included a tour by the Student Council members for the new students where they were divided into groups each by their colleges. The Student Council took the students around the University showing them the facilities available and the deans of each college gave the students a brief about their study journey at ASU.

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 will be starting from 25-2-2018 until 17-3-2018.



The championship will consist of five sports for male and female students where all universities will be competing including:

1. Indoor football for men
2. Volleyball for men
3. Indoor football for women
4. Basketball for women
5. Marathon for both male and female

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love my job especially early in the morning when I arrive at work and I have so much energy to start my day with.

Everyone at work is awesome; they are very friendly and as I work with them they make me feel I am with family.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

My first hobby is travelling; I have visited over 25 countries during my lifetime. I also love fishing and it's one of my best hobbies.

Moreover, I enjoy shopping.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

My favorite food is Barbequed food, I enjoy making barbeque.

I also love fruits and fresh vegetables.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

Journey to the Center of the Earth

8. Final words

I love ASU; it's my second family.

I enjoy working with my colleagues and meeting new staff and working hard to make this University number one.

In order to prepare for 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 at ASU. The second meeting was hosted at ASU in the presence of Prof. Ghassan Aoud, Dr. Assem Al Hajj, Dr. Faiza Zitouni, Mr. Abdullah Al Khaja, Student Affairs members and Student Council members.

The Deanship of Student Affairs managed to create teams to participate in all the above mentioned sports, and the teams will start their training and preparations during the week commencing 11 February 2018 under the supervision of the Student Services Office.

All ASU wishes our participating teams a great success.



"THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE NATIONAL ACTION CHARTER"

Under the Patronage of his Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, ASU students participated in the "The Parliamentary Conference National Action Charter" on Thursday 8 February 2018 at the Gulf Hotel.



A delegation from the University including a number of faculty members participated in the event.



KING HAMAD GLOBAL CENTRE

Under the Patronage of his Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, ASU participated for a Seminar about "King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence" on Thursday 8 February 2018 at Isa Cultural Centre in Juffair.



A number of ASU students participated in the organization in the event and was supervised by Mr. Thaer Alramini, member of Student Affairs and CE Office. The students found the event very interesting.



MEETING WITH THE ALUMNI CLUB TO ORGANIZE THE UPCOMING JOB FAIR

On 5 February 2018, the Career Development and Alumni Affairs Office conducted a meeting with the alumni club. The meeting covered mainly the upcoming job fair, its organization, distribution of the role and responsibilities. Another focus of this meeting was the membership card of the Alumni club members, the privileges and the benefits to the users.



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON THE NATIONAL ACTION CHARTER



On Thursday 8 February, Ms Ruqaya Mohsin, Director of Marketing and Public Affairs participated as (MC) in the Parliamentary Forum on the National Action Charter “Future Prospects, Sustainable Development, and Peace”, which was held by the Council of Representatives in cooperation with the International Peace Institute under the Patronage of His Majesty king Hamad Bin Isa AlKhalifa. The Forum was attended by number of Elite guests and VIPs’ from Kingdom of Bahrain and GCC Countries. During the Forum, three different sessions were moderated in such areas like: Political, Religious and Economics which highlighted the transformational stages in Bahrain after the National Action Charter.



SCHOOL VISITS

The Directorate of Marketing and Public Affairs started their annual school visits as part of the Directorate strategies on building awareness towards university’s programmes.

Mr. Abdulhameed Baqi, Marketing Acting Office Manager & Students Recruitment and Mr. Baha Karaimah, Public Relation Office Manager, visited three government schools with more than 1460 students and promoted the University’s existing programmes as well as the new hosted Engineering Programmes from London South Bank University (LSBU) and the Business Programmes from Cardiff Metropolitan University (CMU), illustrating the study plans, course career path, admissions procedures and other available services for the students.



Positive feedback from students was received, where they expressed their interests in the colleges and programmes that ASU provides. For instance, in “Nasser Vocational Training Center” students from the Electronic and Mechanical fields showed their interests in the College of Engineering programmes, mainly in (Electronics and Electrical Engineering, Mechanical and Design Engineering) from London South Bank University. In addition to one student who inquired about Law and other general queries.

On the other hand, students from both Sitra Girls Secondary School, and Al Hedaya Boys Secondary School, showed interest in various fields like Science, Commerce and literatures and expressed their interests mainly in the College of Administrative Sciences, College of Engineering, College of Law and some for the College of Arts and Sciences, where they inquired about the study plans, course career path, scholarships



for students whom GPA score is 90% or higher, admissions procedures along with the available financial arrangements.

Furthermore, 35 additional Government schools are scheduled and arranged by the Ministry of Education to be visited by the team, in addition to 4 private schools scheduled by the Directorate.

DR ISLAM ABOHELA - TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

My teaching philosophy has been evolving since the start of my academic career; it has shifted from being lecturer centered to more of a student centered. However, it has always been revolving around linking research, professional practice and teaching. I believe these three activities are the main pillars for an enjoyable and successful career in academia.

As an architectural engineer who has been involved in practicing, teaching and doing research in architecture related fields, I have developed a solid foundation in the essential elements of research, teaching and practice. I believe that the three activities complement each other.

I have realized the importance of this connection when it was mentioned consistently in my students' evaluation and feedback how informative it is the linkage I make between current research, contemporary architectural projects and the subject area being taught. It should be noted that every activity I do, whether academic or professional, is a learning opportunity adding to my experience which is transferable to my students.

Throughout my academic career I have had the chance to work as a tutor, assistant lecture, lecturer, assistant professor and head of department. I have had the chance of learning and observing how we, as academic staff, go about teaching our modules. I am personally keen on stimulating students, challenging them to excel, encouraging team work and critical thinking. However, what is important is HOW to implement these approaches with different students, especially if students come from different cultural backgrounds. I believe, what is key here is to identify the most appropriate approach for teaching a certain subject area and have the flexibility to shift between different approaches to engage all students in seeking answers.

I see teaching as a process of facilitating for the students the process of self-learning through explaining the available tools for information acquisition and acting as a motivating agent and reference point whenever needed, accordingly students are trained to be lifelong learners. I adopt a student centred approach through understanding the individual differences between students and keeping all students engaged and challenged. Thus, I prefer to give students questions, rather than answers at the first instance. This way, students are urged to participate in the discussion, think about the issues involved and try to find answers together. While doing so, I am keen on getting everybody involved in the discussion so that the class is always vibrant. By the end of a class, we all have a sense of achievement that we have achieved the learning outcomes. This process, I believe, is a continuous learning process for me and my students.

Sometimes, few students are not fully involved in discussions and needed extra effort to get their attention and encourage them to be part of the class. Having been trained and worked as a senior resident for four years at University Accommodation in the UK and interacting on daily basis with university students, I have the ability to identify students who tend to be shy and not involved in discussions and activities.

In many occasions I found using parts of films, which they can relate to, a good means of getting their attention. I have noticed this while I was doing a research which focused on investigating the portrayal of future architecture in science fiction films. At my early stages of teaching, I was organizing seminars on the topic where we watched a film and started discussing it from an architectural point of view.

I was pleased with the participation of the students and their involvement in the discussions. Even some students who used to stay silent in other classes, were actively participating in the discussions. Accordingly, I started making a library of films which can be used as educational material for different classes related to architectural design, building sciences and other architecture modules. Films ranged from documentary to science fiction films and I was more than happy to share this experience with my colleagues who started using the same approach and had access to my films library and implemented them in their teaching.

It should be noted that teaching is an enjoyable activity which I have great sense of pride doing it. However, teaching is also a skill which needs development based on informed advice from experts in the field. Thus, to develop my teaching skills, I am always keen on participating in workshops to learn about new teaching methodologies and implementing them after receiving the necessary training. These workshops are excellent opportunities for development, especially when the learned techniques are implemented and one notices how rewarding they are. As a result of implementing these learned teaching methodologies I have been awarded two awards related for excellence in teaching. I would like to conclude by saying that whatever the teaching philosophy is, the key to making it a driver for an effective teaching/learning experience is to be genuine in your passion for teaching and realising the importance of your role as an educator for youth full of energy in need of a facilitator to help them take their first steps in a bright career ahead.

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

- Submission of the SER HEC accreditation report, 22 February 2018

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The roots of true achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become.”

Harold Taylor

