



# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

29 SEPTEMBER 2019 – VOLUME 4 - ISSUE 48

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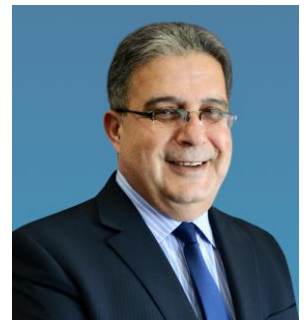
    
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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 48th issue of the 4th volume of the President's News Digest. In this issue of the News Digest, I will address the subject of "Science and Technology Parks".



The development of science parks dates back to the 1950s when the first science park was established at Stanford University in the US. Over a decade later, science parks were established in Great Britain (the Cambridge Science Park) and France (The Sophia Antipolis Science Park). The purpose of science parks was to help the business community and entrepreneurs develop technological innovation and promote a culture of collaboration with universities through its researchers and scientists at an optimal physical location. In the 1970s science and technology parks gain popularity in Europe and in the eighties and nineties in the growing Asian economies. In the Arab World, only few science and technology parks exist in countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, and some others. Bahrain explored the idea of establishing a science and technology park some years back; it is a matter of time before such parks will start to appear.

The establishment of science and technology parks relies heavily on the existence of national science, technology and innovation strategies and the willingness of universities, businesses and government to work together. In addition, R&D funds have to be available in order to conduct research that can be translated into scientific and technological solutions. Research of applied nature needs to be conducted in order to address real life problems.

Science and technology parks are the ideal places to conduct relevant research through qualified scientists and scholars and students, foster innovation, and to develop practical solutions. A culture of entrepreneurship can then be developed where business incubation centers and startups for students and graduates can be established on these parks.

I am delighted to announce that our Business Incubation Center was inaugurated today under the patronage of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees Professor Waheeb Al-Khaja.

More details to follow in future News Digest.

References:-

[http://cejsh.icm.edu.pl/cejsh/element/bwmeta1.element.desklight-d8f6c51d-1842-4b17-af90-8f6eed22eb0e/c/Sobkowicz\\_The-role-of-science-and-technology-parks-in-communication-processes-between-research-institutions-and-industry.pdf](http://cejsh.icm.edu.pl/cejsh/element/bwmeta1.element.desklight-d8f6c51d-1842-4b17-af90-8f6eed22eb0e/c/Sobkowicz_The-role-of-science-and-technology-parks-in-communication-processes-between-research-institutions-and-industry.pdf)

## STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP



Last Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019, Ms. Eman Al Sadeq – Head of Governance Strategic Planning Unit conducted the first strategic workshop focused on the preparation for the new strategic plan (20/21-24/25). During the workshop, the Extended University Management committee members discussed ASU’s strength, weaknesses and suggested various opportunities and threats available in the market that might affect in achieving the new vision and mission.

Later on, Ms. Eman presented ASU’s performance during the implementation period of the current strategic plan. Also, she presented a comparison between different HEIs in the Kingdom, based on specific criteria’s. Then, Ms. Eman discussed in details the effect of external environment on ASU linking it to the PESTEL blocks content in order to deliver a better understanding about PESTEL trends in Bahrain.

Finally, Prof. Ghassan Aouad the President of ASU thanked Ms. Eman for her great efforts and remarkable presentation.



**Written by Ms. Eman Al Sadeq**

## EMPLOYEE INDUCTION FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020



On 22nd September 2019, the University welcomed its new academic and administrative colleagues. Many thanks go to all those new and existing staff who attended the new semester's Staff Induction Day.

The event started with a very warm welcome by the President of ASU, Professor Ghassan Aouad, who highlighted the strategic directions of the University and the role of the new staff can play in its development. The President presented some key facts about the University and the many opportunities that are within our grasp. The President presented the vision and mission of the University and the strategic priorities as specified in our strategic plan. He covered the three core pillars of Teaching and Learning, Research, and Community Engagement, and the four supportive pillars of Student Support, Internationalization, Quality Assurance, and Sustainable Growth. Our staff, students and other stakeholders should be familiar with our strategy house, vision, mission, values, and physical and organizational charts, which are displayed on our screens and banners across various locations in the University. The President concluded his presentation by highlighting our priorities over the next 5 years including sustainable growth, international professional accreditation and creating research capacity.



The President was followed by a presentation delivered by the Assistant VP for Academic Affairs and Development Dr. Faiza Zitouni who spoke about our teaching and learning strategy emphasizing the importance of course portfolios preparation, staff development and quality of teaching delivery. Dr. Faiza emphasized the importance of peer review of teaching and class observations. Dr. Hayat Mohamed the Acting Dean of Students Affairs then presented the deanship role in supporting students and the services they provide within the deanship.



After lunch, the staff induction event was delivered by the team of the VP of Admin, Finance and Community Engagement Dr. Mohammed Yousif. The Director of Admin and Finance Mr. Abdulla Al-Khaja spoke about the various divisions that report to him including HR, procurement and logistical issues, finance and admin. The heads of these divisions presented then about HR policies and processes, the automated procurement system, the budgeting process and various functions supporting admin and finance and

our excellent work on health and safety.

The Director of ICT and KM presented our IT systems including SIS and web site and showed how our staff portal could be used. The Head of the Community Engagement Office summarized our key achievements over the last few years and how the University could become more engaged with community engagement activities. Finally, the Head of HR and Training presented about our staff recruitment, appraisal and support.



## ORIENTATION DAY FIRST SEMESTER 2019/2020



On 24th September 2019, the Deanship of Student Affairs organized “The Orientation Day” for the newly enrolled students for the first semester of the academic year 2019/2020.

The event covered two sessions; the first one was in Abdulla-Nass auditorium where the student council members for its 12th cycle welcomed and registered the new students and showed them where their seats. Also this part included welcoming speeches

and presentations that were delivered by various staff within the University in the presence and support from; Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of the University; Dr Mohammed Yousif the Vice president of ASU, the president councilors, College Deans and Vice Deans, Academic and Administrative staff.

The event was MCed by our talented Director of Marketing and PR Ms.Ruqaya Muhsin where she started by interacting with our new students and breaking the ice with welcoming and supporting speech, followed by a video of ASU achievements for the academic year 2018-2019.



Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of the University then gave his inspirational speech welcoming our new students and endorsing their right choice to come to ASU, he addressed the students as “my daughters and Sons”, he explained the University’s vision, mission and introduced the senior management team to the students. Dr Hayat Ali, the acting Dean of Student Affairs welcomed the new students and explained to them all the support offered at the Deanship including the help during this initial phase of their education at ASU to ensure a smooth transition from their previous educational institutions to our University. She encouraged the students to take part in extra-curricular activities offered by the university either within or outside the University in order to develop their full potential in becoming responsible graduates and valuable members within the community and beyond as per our graduate attributes. Dr. Hayat then added that the support within the deanship falls under the umbrella of the 3 offices including; the Office of Students Services, the Office of Counseling, the Office of Career Development and Alumni Affairs. Mr Mohammed Najjar, the Students Services manager highlighted the support offered by the deanship throughout their educational journey and the importance of taking part in the activities organized by the



University, and in joining the existing 6 clubs (including; women club, sport club, cultural club, media club, volunteers club and talent club). Part one ended by an exciting draw for two lucky new students who won the raffle prizes that were 50BDs in cash for each, after that the new students were asked to fill out the forms found in their giveaways bags, one was a survey about the orientation day and the other was a medical form to highlight any special needs students or any other medical case that needs special attention.



Mr Mohammed Najjar then organized with the great help of all members of the student council a successful tour around the University, the students visited first their Colleges where all Deans, Vice Deans, Head of Departments and academic staff embraced their presence and explained the Colleges' and departments' important aspects, policies, regulations, support systems and processes.

All students also visited the directorate of Administration and Finance, Library facilities, IT and support systems, the Directorate of Admission & Registration, Deanship of Student Affairs and others facilities including the cafeteria, praying rooms, female student room, games room etc, and the tour ended by visiting the tables of students clubs who were presented in the lobby for the new students to join the club that best serves their hobbies and interests.



The event was enjoyable and a great success and the new students were very happy and happily assured that they made the right choice by enrolling in our beloved ASU.

Written by Dr. Hayat Ali

## INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS



Name:	AbdulKhaleq Abdulraheem Delawer
Workplace:	Aljazeera Tourism
Academic Degree	Bachelor
Academic Major	Accounting and Finance
Tell us about your Experience at ASU in terms of learning environment and teaching methods.	It was a unique experience and the teaching methods were distinctive and easy to learn from it and deploy what we have learned to the real world.
What did you enjoy the most about your experience at ASU?	ASU is simply the key to my happiness and success.
Tell us a success story inspired by ASU.	The quality of education, learning environment, flexibility and family spirit where the key factors for me to learn and graduate.
In your Opinion, What are the Improvement areas you would like to see at ASU in the future?	I would like to see ASU as the 1 <sup>st</sup> University in the Arab world ranking inshallah .
Final words	I wish for my beloved ASU all the best

Interviewed By: Mrs. Noora Musalam, Manager of Career Development & Alumni Affairs Office - Deanship Of Student Affairs



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“Innovation is the specific instrument of entrepreneurship. The act that endows resources with a new capacity to create wealth”*

**Peter Drucker**

*Happy Reading!*