

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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Office No: (+973) 16036161

Email: tania.kashou@asu.edu.bh

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 4th issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.



In this issue, I will be addressing the subject of **programme reviews** as clearly specified and articulated in the BQA Programmes within Colleges Reviews Handbook. There are **four indicators** associated with Programme Reviews: Indicator 1 which is “the Learning Programme” should demonstrate that the programme is fit for purpose in terms of mission, relevance, curriculum, pedagogy, intended learning outcomes and assessment.

In this indicator, the programme team should ensure that there is a clear academic planning framework for the programme which shows that there are clear aims that indicate the broad purposes of providing the programme and are related to the mission of the institution and the college and its strategic goals, the curriculum is organized to provide academic progression year-on-year or course-by-course, and it balances between knowledge and skills, and between theory and practice, the syllabus (i.e. curricular content, level, and outcomes) meets the norms and standards of the particular disciplinary field and award and is accurately documented in terms of breadth, depth, and relevance, with appropriate references to current and recent professional practice and published research findings, intended learning outcomes are expressed in the programme specifications and are aligned with the mission and programme aims and objectives and are appropriate for the level of the degree, there are course/module Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) appropriate to the aims and levels of the course/module and they are mapped to the programme and courses, where relevant to the programme, there is an element of work-based learning that contributes to the achievement of learning and receives credits and there is a clear assessment policy, the principles and methods used for teaching in the programme support the attainment of aims and intended learning outcomes and should include teaching and learning policies, range of teaching methods, students' participation in learning, exposure to professional practice or applications of theory, encouragement of personal responsibility for learning, and development of independent learning, and finally suitable assessment arrangements, which include policies and procedures,

are in place and known to all academics and students to assess students' achievements and should include formative and summative functions with clear criteria for marking, appropriate mechanisms to provide students with prompt feedback on their progress and performance that assists further learning, a match of what is assessed to the programme aims and intended learning outcomes, and transparent mechanisms for grading students' achievements with fairness and rigour.

Indicator 2 which is “Efficiency of the Programme” should demonstrate that the programme is efficient in terms of the admitted students, the use of available resources - staffing, infrastructure and student support.

In this indicator the programme team should ensure that there is a clear admission policy which is periodically revised and the admission requirements are appropriate for the level and type of the programme, the profile of admitted students matches the programme aims and available resources, there are clear lines of accountability with regard to the management of the programme, faculty members and others who contribute to the programme are fit for purpose and there are sufficient staff to teach the programme, there is an appropriate range of academic qualifications and specializations, where appropriate there is relevant robust professional experience, and the profile of recent and current academic research, teaching or educational development matches the programme aims and curricular content, there are clear procedures for the recruitment, appraisal, promotion and retention of academic staff that are implemented consistently and in a transparent manner and arrangements are in place for the induction of newly appointed academic staff, there is a functioning management information system to enable informed decision-making, there are policies and procedures, consistently implemented, to ensure security of learner records and accuracy of results, physical and material resources are adequate in number, space, style and equipment; these include classrooms, teaching halls, laboratories and other study spaces; Information Technology (IT) facilities, library and learning resources, there is a tracking system to determine the usage of laboratories, e-learning and e-resources and it allows for evaluation of the utilization of these resources, there is appropriate student support available in terms of library, laboratories, e-learning and e-resources, guidance and support care, arrangements are in place for orienting newly admitted students (including those transferring from other institutions with direct entry after Year 1), there is an appropriate academic support system in place to track students' progress which identifies students at-risk of failure; and provides interventions

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Rifat Hussain

Position: Director of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Knowledge Management (KM).

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

I was born in Sudan and grew up in my grandfather's house (from my mom's side) under his wings and direct influence. He was our role model as he was the leader of the tribe in our village.

I graduated from Sudan University with a bachelor degree in computer Engineering and finished my master's degree in Management Information Systems (MIS) in 2009.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I joined ASU in September 2013 as Network Administrator and faculty member in the MIS Department. Recently in 2016 I got promoted to ICT and KM Director.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

I hope ASU goes more internationally and be number one University in the Gulf.

for at-risk students, and finally the learning environment is conducive to expanding the student experiences and knowledge through informal learning.

Indicator 3 that is “Academic Standards of the Graduates” should demonstrate that the graduates of the programme meet academic standards compatible with equivalent programmes in Bahrain, regionally and internationally. In this indicator the programme team should ensure that graduate attributes are clearly stated in terms of aims and achieved learning outcomes for the programme and for each course and are ensured through the use of assessment which is valid and reliable in terms of the learning outcomes, benchmarks and internal and external reference points are used to determine and verify the equivalence of academic standards with other similar programmes in Bahrain, regionally and internationally and should include , the choice of what is benchmarked and what it is against and how the process is managed and how the outcomes are used, assessment policies and procedures are consistently implemented, monitored and subject to regular review and are made available to students, there are mechanisms to ensure the alignment of assessment with outcomes to assure the academic standards of the graduates, there are mechanisms in place to measure the effectiveness of the programme’s internal moderation system for setting assessment instruments and grading student achievement, there are procedures which are consistently implemented for the external moderation of assessment and there are mechanisms to allow for feedback on assessment in line with assessed courses, the level of achievement as expressed in samples of students’ assessed work is appropriate to the level and type of the programme in Bahrain, regionally and internationally, the level of achievement of graduates meets programme aims and intended learning outcomes, as demonstrated in final results, grade distribution and confirmation by internal and external independent scrutiny, the ratios of admitted students to successful graduates including rates of progression, retention, year-on-year progression, length of study and first destinations of graduates, are consonant with those achieved on equivalent programmes in Bahrain, regionally and internationally, where assessed work-based learning takes place, there is a policy and procedure to manage the process and its assessment to assure that the learning experience is appropriate in terms of content and level to meet the intended learning outcomes, mentors are assigned to students to monitor and review this, where there is a dissertation, thesis or industry project component there are policies and procedures and monitoring for supervision which

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I like the challenge in the evolving of technology and keeping up with the latest technology.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

I love music, music and music.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

Barbecued food.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

Da Vinci Code, by Dan Brown

8. Final words

I wish ASU all the best. ASU is our home.

state the responsibilities and duties of both the supervisor and the postgraduate student and there is a mechanism to monitor implementation and improvement, there is a functioning programme advisory board with clear terms of reference and it includes discipline experts, employers and alumni and its feedback is used systematically to inform programme decision-making and finally there is evidence of graduate and employer satisfaction with the standards of the graduate profile.

The fourth and final indicator is the “Effectiveness of Quality Management and Assurance” which has to demonstrate that arrangements are in place for managing the programme, including quality assurance and continuous improvement in order to ensure confidence in the programme.

In this indicator, the Program team should ensure that the institution’s policies, procedures and regulations are applied effectively and consistently across the college, the programme is managed in a way that demonstrates effective and responsible leadership, there is a clear quality assurance management system, in relation to the programmes within the college that is consistently implemented, monitored and evaluated, the academics and support staff have an understanding of quality assurance and their role in ensuring effectiveness of provision, there is a policy and procedures for the development of new programmes to ensure the programmes are relevant, fit for purpose, and comply with existing regulations, there are arrangements for annual internal programme evaluation and implementation of recommendations for improvement, there are arrangements for periodic reviews of the programmes that incorporate both internal and external feedback, and mechanisms are in place to implement recommendations for improvement, the structured comments collected from, for example, students’ and other stakeholders’ surveys are analysed and the outcomes are used to inform decisions on programmes with mechanisms for improvement and are made available to the stakeholders, the arrangements for identifying continuing professional development needs for all staff and meeting them are effective and monitored and evaluated, and finally where appropriate for the programme type, there is continuous scoping of the labour market to ensure that programmes are up-to-date.

Achieving full confidence in all our programmes is a strategic priority. If we look at the requirements of every indicator and respond to them in a professional and consistent way, the task becomes more manageable. The above requirements for every indicator should be produced as checklists by the programme coordinators (all the above are from the BQA handbook).

It is evident from the BQA handbook that inputs and outputs are extremely important, inputs include the quality of admitted students, teaching faculty, learning resources, quality assurance policies and procedures amongst many other inputs and the outputs are related to achieving the learning outcomes, quality of graduates, and benchmarks amongst many other outputs. Programme reviews are testimonies of quality and it is worth remembering that quality should be embedded in everything we do and should be an integral part of our culture.

Our programmes in Arts and Science will be reviewed in March 2018 and action/improvement plans are due early January. It is vital for the team in the College to map whatever they are doing against the above indicators and to produce a checklist of compliance. It is also important for our colleagues in the College of Law to do the same as our Masters Programmes in Law and Commercial Law will undertake a programme review in the foreseeable future.

AL-WATAN NEWSPAPER VISIT’S TO ASU

On Thursday, 9 November 2017, Mr. Yousif Al-Binkhaleel, the Chief Editor at Al-Watan Newspaper and Mr. Muath Busaibea, the Marketing and Public Relations Manager, visited Professor Ghassan Fouad Aouad, the President of the University.



During the visit, several topics were discussed on the collaboration between both parties emphasizing on ASU upcoming event of “International Conference on Sustainable Futures” where Al-Waten Newspapers will be the main media sponsor of the event. The visit was attended by Ms. Ruqaya Mohsin, the Director of Marketing and Public Affairs and Mr. Baha Karaima, the Office Manager of Public Relations Office.

AL-NOOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL VISIT

On 09 November 2017, (Al Noor International School) have been visited by the Marketing Acting Office Manager & Students Recruitment Abdulhameed Baqi, Acting Head of Governance, Strategic Planning & International Partnerships Ms. Catherine Hogan and Dean of College of Engineering Dr. Ashraf Hindi.



During the visit a presentation was delivered about ASU existing and hosted programmes (LSBU and CMU) for more than 145 students of 12th grade from both IGCSE and CBSE syllabus where they showed their interest towards the programmes offered and inquired about study plans, course career’s path, scholarships and admission procedures.

7TH INTERNATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME (IQAP)

Dr. Roy D. Tumaneng, Deputy Director of QAAC, and Dr. Mohammed Al-Aghbari, Head of QAA for Academic Affairs Unit, participated in the 7th International Quality Assurance Programme (IQAP) which was held on 12-16 November 2017 in Dubai, UAE. The said training programme delivered by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA-UK) is intended for QA professionals across the globe. Over the years, QAA has welcomed delegates from over 35 different countries to take part in lively and perceptive discussions about the quality of higher education.



There are issues and concerns that affect higher education providers, internationally, whichever country they are located. This programme is also about enabling participants to learn from each other, to help shape and improve the learning experiences of students worldwide.



IQAP provides the participants with opportunities to: (1) learn from other colleagues from around the world who are working in similar roles but different contexts; (2) reflect on their own roles and practices within a wider context of contemporary thinking about higher education and quality assurance; (3) learn about current issues in the strategic management of higher education assurance; and, (4) develop new skills relevant to the improvement of quality assurance processes and practice in their own context and to identify areas for further development.

This year’s batch of IQAP delegates consisted of 15 QA professionals from the United States, UK, Hong Kong, Botswana, Mauritius, Bulgaria, Turkey, UAE, and Kingdom of Bahrain. Having participated in the programme, both Dr. Roy and Dr. Mohammed believe that IQAP has enabled them to comment more

effectively on the major contemporary issues facing quality improvement in education globally, and that they have acquired comparators to their own experiences by working with colleagues from other countries.

CUSTOMERS SERVICE IS AT THE HEART OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

During MHRM course of entrepreneurship, Mr Mohammed Isa shared his experience with ASU students in customer's service, and how it feeds in the success of entrepreneurs. He said that a perfect business visionary must be sufficiently creative in servicing their customers. Experience and specialized skill are essential elements that will improve certainty while kick beginning. He gave many examples of good practice that entrepreneurs must follow. Entrepreneurs are the backbone of any nation around the globe. In numerous countries, the entrepreneurs are viewed as essential player to the achievement and flourishing of



the economy. Private ventures can demonstrate to a great degree fruitful when arranged appropriately. Studies propose that entrepreneurs are successful when they care for the service of their customers

ASU PARTICIPATED IN ORGANIZING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AMATEUR MMA 2017 AND BRAVE 9

As part of the initiatives of the Community Engagement Office at Applied Science University in support to the national and community activities, the Community Engagement Office and Deanship of Student Affairs represented the University, which was a strategic partner, at the World Championships Amateur MMA 2017 and Brave 9. The event was under the patronage of HH Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Charity and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, and with the direct supervision of HH Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa the First Vice-President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Honorary President of Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation.



The university participated in organizing the championships and Brave 9 that was held in Sheikh Khalifa Sports City in the Kingdom of Bahrain for the period 12 to 18 November 2017. The opening ceremony of the championships was attended by Prof Waheeb AlKhaja, Chairmane of the Board of Trustees, Prof Ghassan Aouad, President of the University, and a number of administrative staff and students. The total number of Applied Science University volunteers who participated in organizing the championships was One hundred and seventy; most were students, in addition to a number of administrative staff and the local community. The University volunteers were distributed to eleven main committees, in addition to sub-committees under the direct supervision of Dr. Mohammed Alaa Al-Hamami, Manager of the Community Engagement Office. Mr. Thaer Mustafa al-Ramini, a member of the Community Engagement Office and Student Care was the general coordinator. Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Al-Najjar, Manager of Student



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Services Office in the Deanship of Student Affairs chaired the Technical and organizational Committee which included (115) individuals. Mr. Waleed Abbad, a member of the University’s coordinators was responsible for the follow up of the administrative committees and knowing their needs.

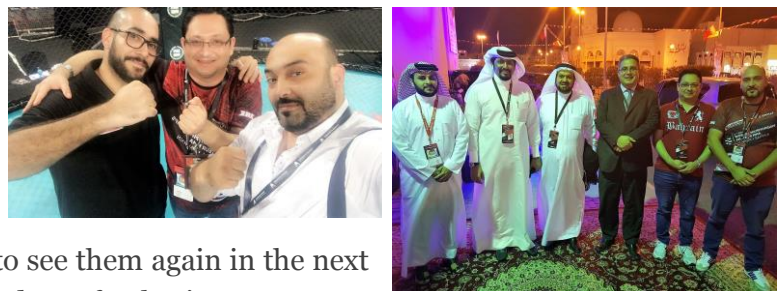


ASU volunteers worked in different committees: the Committee for General Supervision and Coordination and follow up, the MC Committee, the Public Relations Committee for VIPs, the Complexes Committee, the Media Committee, Committee for Designs and Publications, Committee of the Secretariat, the Committee of housing and hotels, The Social Media Committee, and the Committee of Conferences.

The Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee and member of the Supreme Organizing Committee for the International week of Brive and the World Amateur Martial Arts Championships, Director of the Information Office of HH Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Mr. Omar Abdul Aziz Bokmal, praised the volunteers of Applied Science University during his meeting with the University Management and through his press statements and extended his sincere thanks to them for all their efforts, which contributed to the success of the championships.



On the last day of the championships, Mr. Densign White, Chief Executive Officer of International Mixed Martial Arts Federation, and Mr. Khalid Abdulaziz Al Khayat, President of Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation, met with the ASU volunteers and thanked them for their efforts and professional work, and hoped to see them again in the next championships will be held next year in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



REMINDER OF THE WEEK

International Conference on Sustainable Futures: 26-27 November, the Grove Hotel, Amwaj Islands

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Excellence is the unlimited ability to improve the quality of what you have to offer.”

Rick Pitino

 *Happy Reading!* 