

President's News Digest



Message From the Editor

Welcome to the 3rd issue of the 6th volume of the President's News Digest.

In this issue Prof. Ghassan Aouad , President of the University will address the subject of "The Pain of Losing a Great Leader"

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Message from the President

The Pain of Losing a Great Leader

On the morning of the 11th of November, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the whole world have lost a great leader. On that morning, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa passed away, may God bless his soul and send him to heaven.

HRH Prince Khalifa was a great leader and he will leave a legacy of achievements at the national and international levels. His support for education and higher education was exceptional. His firmness combined with his modesty and great leadership skills have made him a unique leader so much loved by his people, Bahrainis and expatriates and people from around the world. The pain of losing a great leader is felt by everyone as we mourn the loss of such a unique leader.

On behalf of the University, my sincere condolences go to HM the King, HRH the Crown Prince, the entire Royal Family, the people of Bahrain and the world, Mr Sameer Nass Chairman of the BODs, Professor Waheeb Al Khaja, Chairman of the BOTs, and to all colleagues and students and other University's stakeholders

الله يرحم صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير خليفة بن سلمان آل خليفة بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته
ولاحول ولا قوة الا بالله
إنا لله وانا اليه راجعون



Written By
Professor Ghassan Aouad
The President of Applied
Science University

Inside this Issue

Message from the Editor

Message from the President

ASDU ONLINE ACTIVITIES OVER THE
LAST PERIOD

Quote of the week

من رواع الشعر العربي

ASDU ONLINE ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST PERIOD

With 1.5 billion students (representing 90% of the world's student population) now home as the Covid19 pandemic continues to spread globally affecting more than 165 countries, there has been an increasing shift towards online learning by universities, colleges and schools as to promote the continuity of E-Learning. eLearning has become more than ever widespread and this phenomenon is expected to continue beyond the pandemic as anticipated by many experts in the field.

Instructors all over the world are being required to quickly transition their teaching online and design learning experiences that engage students and meet learning outcomes.

Online learning is not a new way of learning and has been around for quite some time; throughout the years, significant research and practice were carried out to identify the best way to implement student assessment in an online environment. A wide range of strategies have been identified to safeguard the effectiveness, rigor and quality of student assessment when courses are delivered online. This include among many strategies: integrating ongoing formative assessment; using a variety of assessment strategies to accommodate different learning styles; relying on collaborative, peer and self-assessment and carefully designing assessment components that are authentic and minimizes the risks of plagiarism.

ASDU have concentrated, since the beginning of Covid-19 pandemic, on the online activities, either with internal or external providers. Since last July, we have reached an agreement with CLICKS, The Center for Learning Innovations, to conduct a series of teaching online related workshops. The result was the conduct of 4 online training sessions that concentrated on the most important elements for the teaching/ learning process within ASU. They are listed below:

1. This first one was conducted on Wednesday and Thursday, 23rd and 24th of September 2020 under the title of: Transitioning Effectively to Online Teaching

The aim of this interactive webinar was to introduce participants to the definitions and basic principles of online teaching. Participants were exposed to various types of online course delivery strategies (i.e. synchronous, asynchronous, blended, et.) and explored how online learning differs from the traditional face-to-face learning and what sort of skills and competencies shall students and instructors acquire to ensure a successful learning experience. Participants also explored how they could quickly and effectively plan their online courses considering aspects related to course content, learning activities, student engagement and the role of feedback as well as how they can create a good online presence and build active learning communities.

Webinar Objectives

- Identify the main characteristics and skills required to create a successful online learning experience
- Understand the main differences between teaching face to face (f2f) and teaching online and how to prepare students for their online learning experience
- Consider different possible formats for the delivery of online courses
- Rapidly and effectively plan their online course and transition to online teaching
- Define what is effective online 'content' and how content is planned and presented to meet specific learning outcomes and engage students
- Integrate various tools (primarily those included in your LMS) to engage students in their learning.
- Reflect on your current teaching online practices and make improvements as deemed necessary.



Written By
Dr. Adel AlSamman
Head of Academic Staff
Development Unit

2. This second one was conducted on Thursday, 8th of October 2020 under the title of: Re-thinking Student Assessment in Online Learning

This webinar aimed at supporting instructors and teaching staff during their transition to online learning and will focus particularly on student assessment strategies that are believed to be the most effective in an online environment. Assessment techniques including the use of online quizzes, discussion forums, projects, portfolios, blogs and wikis as well as peer and self-assessments were discussed during the webinar. Moreover, the role of meaningful feedback cannot be overemphasized when it comes to online learning and the webinar tackled the main characteristics of meaningful feedback and the different ways and techniques to provide effective feedback to students.

Webinar Objectives

- Understand the key principles for moving assessment online
- Design assessment strategies that are suitable to the nature of online learning:
- What should I be assessing?
- Use effectively various educational technology tools to support student assessment
- Understand the role and importance of meaningful feedback in online learning
- Comprehend and know how to address issues in managing quality and standards in online assessment (i.e. dealing with plagiarism and authenticity).
- Reflect on current institutional/ personal student assessment practices

3. This third one was conducted on Thursday, 22nd of October 2020 under the title of: Academic Advising

This webinar aimed at identifying the broad range of understanding, knowledge, and skills that support academic advising in online environments. It acquainted participants with different strategies, tools and techniques to enhance their advising practices and consider how technology may be exploited to offer a better and more personalized advising experience.

Webinar Objectives

- Comprehend various advising philosophies, approaches and models and determine which are more suitable to you and your students.
- Understand the difference between advising students in a face to face environment and advising students online
- Consider the NACADA Academic Advising Core Competencies Model within their advising practices
- Integrate the use of various technologies to deliver academic advising services
- Appreciate what it takes to build a proactive and engaging relationship with their e-Advisees
- Use various principles and tools for assessing online academic advising

4. This fourth one was conducted on Thursday, 5th of November 2020 under the title of: Leading into the Future with Quality: Quality Assurance for Online Education

During the webinar participants explored the various dimensions when evaluating the quality of online education and will get familiar with the existing frameworks and models and how these may be used as benchmarks. Participants also immersed in thinking about articulating/ revising their strategies, policies and plans for online delivery and will reflect on their current QA practices and determine their suitability for this new form of learning.

Webinar Objectives

- a. Understand the various online learning delivery approaches and how they may be adopted by their institution
- b. Identify key issues and evidences for quality and quality assurance in online education

Quote of the Week

“Leadership is not about a title or a designation. It’s about impact, influence, and inspiration.”

- Robin S. Sharma

من روائع الشعر العربي

صن النفس واحملها على ما يزينها** تعش سالماً والقول فيك جميل

- الإمام الشافعي