

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

10 JANUARY 2016 - Issue 10



### **WELCOME**

Welcome to the 10th ASU President
News Digest. In this weekly digest
which will keep you abreast about
activities in the University, we will
cover stories related to the research
collaboration with LSBU,
Computing And Information
Society (CCIS), improving our
teaching at ASU, Participation in
Exhibition.

Please keep Ms Tania Kashou and
Ms Ayat Nass informed about
activities or events that you would
like to include in the news digest.

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#### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

This week and over the next few weeks there will be a lot of activities and events taken place in the University. Staff from the HEA (Higher Education Academy) in the UK will be visiting the University this week to conduct training to 25 staff to help them achieve their HEA fellowships. On the 14 and 16 January, four senior colleagues will be attending the HEC accreditation training. On the 20 January, Prof Robert Newton will be visiting the University to help us with various activities related to program reviews, accreditation and NQF. On the 23 January, colleagues from Huddersfield University in the UK will be conducting external reviews of our programs in Arts and Science. Finally, on the 26 January, a review panel from the QQA will be visiting us to assess our listing application for the NQF. All these activities will help us shape our university and move it to different grounds. I rely heavily on your dedication and support.

#### **COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SOCIETY (CCIS)**

Dr Belal Zaqaibeh, the Dean of College of Arts and Science attended the annual meeting of the Colleges of Computing and Information Society (CCIS) in Jordan. The CCIS is an important society that is emanating from the Association of Arab Universities, which is considered as an Arab umbrella for all computer science activities that are conducted by the colleges of computing in the Arab World. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the International Arab Conference on Information Technology (ACIT).

During the meeting Dr Zaqaibeh was elected to be a member in the executive committee of the CCIS, and to be the liaison officer between the CCIS and all universities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.











#### RESEARCH COLLABORATION WITH LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY

A high level delegation from London South Bank University visited ASU (4-7 January) for initial talks to strengthen and augment our existing partnership with research, innovation and enterprise dimensions.

The delegation was headed by Prof Paul Ivey, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research and External Engagement, and included Prof David Mba, Dean of Engineering and Dr Gurpreet Jagpal, Director of Research, Innovation and Enterprise. Prof Waheeb AlKhaja, Chairman of Board of Trustees, and Prof Ghassan Aouad, President of ASU, led ASU Senior Executive team in the discussions.

The discussions have identified a possibility of establishing a joint Research Institute (RI), within which major R&D projects that are primarily interdisciplinary in nature cutting across many interests in the University, e.g. Sustainable Futures. Various activities within the proposed RI include:

- A portfolio of (HEC-approved) postgraduate programmes of studies (both at Masters and PhD levels) will be developed and marketed widely within the region and beyond.
- Development of mobility programmes and joint staff database
- Joint conferences/workshops organisations
- Joint flag-ship R&D research projects

Within our partnership, enterprise forms an equally

important pillar under which, entrepreneurship and innovation are encouraged with CPD development, student startups, spin out, as well as commercial joint venture opportunities are harnessed and facilitated.

During the visit, Prof Ivey gave a lecture on Research Innovation, in which he emphasized the importance of research and innovation and outlined his vision and directions for collaborative research in general and between our two institutions in particular.

Prof Mba delivered a lecture on Engineering Futures; he outlined where the R&D in engineering are heading in the coming two decades and highlighted the many challenges ahead. This included the engineering of the next generation of UAV, robotics and avionics, emphasizing on sustainability and dependability.

The visit ended by a dinner hosted by the Chairman of Board of Trustess in which Prof Riyadh Hamzah, the Secretary General of the















#### **IMPROVING OUR TEACHING AT ASU**

On Thursday 7 January, ASU Faculty candidates for Fellow status from the UK Higher Education Academy (HEA) attended a professional development workshop entitled: Using Teacher Language to Maximise Learning. The workshop was delivered by Yvonne Johnson, ASU Programme Coordinator for English Language. It examined how lecturers of content subjects, such as business or accounting, can improve student engagement and success by thinking more carefully about the language they are using in their classes. It looked at the extra burden placed on learners who are learning content and language simultaneously, and offered tips on how to improve student comprehension and recall. The material covered applied also to faculty who teach in Arabic language because the scaffolding skills presented could be transferred to teaching in any language. Our faculty even experienced learning a few words of Japanese! Following this workshop, ASU Fellow and Senior Fellow candidates will shortly enjoy their second weeklong visit from Dr. Adrian Brockett, Senior Fellow of HEA and Principal Lecturer in International Development in the Faculty of Education and Theology at York St John University, UK.

## PARTICIPATION OF DR. AMMAR ALJALAMNEH IN BEIRUT INTERNATIONIONAL ARAB BOOK FAIR 2015

Dr Ammar Aljalamneh participated in the 59th Beirut International Arab Book Fair 2015 during the period from 2 to 10 December 2015. The Exhibition was inaugurated by the Lebanese Prime Minister Tamam Salam. One hundred and fifty local and foreign publication houses participated in the fair.

It is worth mentioning that the reason for which Dr. Ammar participated in the Exhibition is to provide the library of ASU with the new publications. Dr Ammar said that his focus was on political science books, administration and law books in addition to books that serve the scientific research and serve the researchers in their different fields at the university. On the sideline of the exhibition, Dr. Ammar attended a workshop on University Libraries at the Digital Era and the Electronic Publication and the indexes of books at the Congress Library.



#### **QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand."

Woodrow Wilson









#### THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF ASU ALUMNI CLUB













#### **REMINDER OF THE WEEK**



#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

NQF visit on 26 January 2016

Enjoy Reading