



PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 20th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.



I would like to start this edition by reminding colleagues about the deadline for submitting our HEC institutional accreditation application, which is due on 26 March. The application needs to be submitted in both Arabic and English with all supporting materials in English including detailed CVs and job descriptions of the senior management and all academic staff, university catalogue, programme handbooks, staff and students' handbooks, marketing materials, and students' admissions forms. All documents need to be checked by their respected owners.

Last week, we heard from the HEC that our international research conference on sustainable futures, which will take place on the 26-27 November, will be held under the patronage of HE, the Minister for Education Dr Majed Al Nuaimi. This is fantastic news for the University and it is really timely considering that we will be going through institutional accreditation soon.

On the morning of 12 March, a panel from HEC visited to check our readiness to launch the Cardiff Met programmes. We are hopeful that they should allow us to do this soon.

On the morning of 13 March, the President chaired the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council, which approved the submission of the three improvement plans for the College of Arts and Science. In addition, this council looked at various quality related issues including submission of course portfolios.

On the same day, the President attended a meeting chaired by the Secretary General of the HEC with presidents of private universities and senior officers from the HEC. The following is a summary of things that were discussed:



1. University Bylaws: alignment with HEC bylaws and submission by the end of March in Arabic and attested translated English version.

2. Internships are very important in delivering good quality education. Some guidelines regarding internships will be provided by the HEC following feedback from universities.
3. Students unified files are very important to ensure students issues are handled properly.
4. Issue related to equivalency and excess of 8 years in studying on a programme were discussed and there should be systems in place to identify students who are not able to graduate on time.
5. Employment of Full Time and Part Time staff needs approval by HEC. We need to have a pool of approved part timers.
6. Extra teaching loads are not allowed in the HEC Bylaws.
7. Recruitment of staff and placing adverts requests should be sent directly to Dr Mona Albalooshi.
8. Staff who attended the HEC HEA training should submit applications for HEA fellowships.
9. Universities should have staff development units in their organizational charts.
10. Importance of achieving full confidence for programme reviews was discussed.
11. Deadline for submitting institutional accreditation application to the HEC is 26 March.
12. Donations from private sector organizations need approval from HEC, the same applies when universities make external donations.
13. Master and Doctoral students' proposals need to be submitted to HEC who will be working on a template to facilitate this task.
14. All graduates details and related documents of the first semester of this academic year should be submitted to the HEC.
- 15: Various issues related to data requests, site visits by the HEC inspection panels, and other financial-related issues were discussed.

On 15 March, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the President and Mr Yasser Abusenah met Ms Kathryn Harrison-Graves from the HEA in London in order to explore opportunities for further collaboration with the HEA. I am pleased to announce that more staff will be trained to achieve HEA fellowships. The President signed a consultancy agreement with the HEA to provide additional services, guidance and coaching in order to improve the area of teaching and learning.

In the afternoon of the same day, we visited LSBU and our office in London and explored with Prof Paul Ivey, Mr Andy Unger and Prof Charles Egbu opportunities to solidify our collaboration.



On 16 and 17 March, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the President and Mr Yasser Abusenah attended the Cardiff Met Partners Conference in Cardiff. Various papers covered the importance of quality assurance, strategic planning, marketing and need to create research capacity in academic institutions partnering with Cardiff Met. Cardiff Met announced the establishment of a new school of new technologies that include disciplines like digital media, data sciences and design technologies. During the visit, the ASU delegation had the opportunity to meet other partners to explore opportunities for collaboration and to share lessons learnt in running successful partnerships.

Let me conclude this edition of the News Digest by thanking our colleagues in Arts and Science, especially the Dean and the Vice Dean, the QAA Centre especially the Director, the 2 VPs, Mr Hatem and Mr Abdullah for all their help and dedication in submitting the improvement plans for the 3 programmes of the college on time. Let's now hope for a future successful visit by the Education & Training Quality Authority - BQA and to a good outcome.

ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFICATION: A NEW TESTAMENT OF ASU'S COMMITMENT TO TOTAL QUALITY



On 27 February 2017, ASU signed a Contract for Certification Services with RIC (Resource Inspections Canada Incorporated) to help install the ISO 9001:2015 quality system at the University's administration. This is yet another step by ASU to ensure the quality of its operations and services not only at the academic level but also on the administrative front. Indeed, the certification efforts will include the following departments: Finance Department, HR Department, Administrative Affairs Department, Procurement and Logistics Services Department, ICT & KM Directorate, Deanship of Admissions & Registration, Quality Assurance and Accreditation Centre, Marketing and Public Affairs Directorate, Deanship of Student Affairs, Training and Continuing Education Centre, and the Community Engagement Office.

On the same day, a representative of the company, Mr. Rizwan Ahmad, was accompanied by Mr. Hatem Dammak to take the tour of the University and visit some of the departments that will be subject to the certification. He had a chance to talk to a number of our administrative staff to learn more about the procedures of each department. At the end of the visit, Mr. Hatem Dammak shared with him the administrative policies and procedures so that the company can review them and ensure their alignment with the ISO 9001:2015 standards. Next steps will include other visits to our premises and delivery of training sessions to key staff from the concerned departments.

Headquartered in Canada since 2004, RIC (Resource Inspections Canada Incorporated) is a leading company in certification services with branches in Bahrain, KSA and Pakistan. It helped other Bahraini Universities get the same certification. Mr. Hatem Dammak, acting Head of Internal Audit Unit was appointed to lead on this certification project.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Dr. Khairi Mohamed Omar

Position: Acting Head of Business Administration Department, College of Administrative Sciences

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

Well, I was born in 1977 in Libya, and raised in a normal family setting with a very lovely atmosphere. It was really nice time! Due to the busy life I had in running my family business; I got delayed in achieving my educational goal. However, I completed my Bachelor degree in 2004. Few years later, I moved to Malaysia where I earned my master's degree in 2009, and then my PhD in 2015.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I joined ASU early 2016 as Assistance Professor. My main job was focusing on teaching. Last semester I have joined the Quality team which is a quite challenging role. Recently, I have been promoted the position of Acting Head of the Department of Business Administration.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

My enthusiasm of working as Assistant Professor at ASU stems from my desire to make full use of the knowledge gained during my study, research and work experience in order to contribute to our students' knowledge enhancement and development using modern approaches and teaching from real cases.

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BAHRAIN ANNUAL FORUM

On 15 March, the Vice Dean of the College of Administrative Sciences, Dr Ramzi Nekhili, the Community Engagement Office represented by Dr. Mohammad Al-Hamami and Mr. Thaer Mustafa along with five of our students attended an annual forum organised by the American Chamber of Commerce Bahrain (AmCham Bahrain). The Forum, which aims to promote the expansion of trade and investment between the markets of the MENA region and the United States, focused on SMEs: Unlocking Economic Potential in the MENA Region.



Participants benefited from a series of high-level discussions and commentary on opportunities and effective strategies for business development including coverage of key topics such as:

SME's as key drivers of economic development in the MENA region; the Regional SME Ecosystem: A Fresh look at Thriving Techniques; SME Financing Opportunities and Export Support Programmes; and the integration of regional SMEs into the supply chain of U.S. and multinational companies in the region.

Participating in such forum added a great value to our students in exposing their knowledge to a high-level of business practices.



DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Under the direct supervision of Dr. Mohammed Yousif, VP for Administrative Affairs & Community Engagement, the ICT & KM Directorate developed a Document Management System, using oracle latest programming tools, to track, manage and store documents and reduce paper. The system provides electronic filing for inbox, outbox and all other documents in integration with HRMS. The Directorate of Admin and Finance decided to implement the system as a pilot and soon it will be available for colleges and directorates. Mrs. Shadia Abualasal, Head of Applications Development Department conducted a training for staff of the Directorate of Admin and Finance.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I start my day with a long list of things to do; the one I do enjoy most is dealing with students' problems and obstacles. Academic life is all about learning and helping students.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

Back home, I used to play football and I love fishing.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

As a Libyan, I used to have Couscous for lunch as our main dish. My favourite food is ravioli, a type of Italian pasta.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

Well, as you know it is very challenging and hard to find time in order to read a book when it comes to running the largest department in the University (Business Administration Department), but I do have some free time during the weekend to read. The book I am reading at the moment is entitled "Awaken the Giant Within" by Tony Robbins. It is really a good book.

8. Final words

I strongly believe that the real enemy we face every day is ignorance, and education is the only weapon to use to defend.

ASU is a very promising university, and it is indeed one of the leading private universities in the region. This kind of university with wise and good leadership will for sure help our future generation in lighting up their path to success.

DR. AL-HAMAMI A SPEAKER IN IT LIVE FORUM 2017

Dr. Mohammad Al-Hamami, Manager of Community Engagement Office and Assistant Professor in the Management Information Systems Department participated as a speaker in IT Live 2017 Forum using Cisco WebEX technology.



Dr. Al-Hamami talked about the power, impact, and evolution of social media. He also discussed the advantages and disadvantages and the optimal use of such media.

Hundreds of experts and specialists attended the forum that was held in Baghdad on 10 and 11 March 2017.

DR. AL-HAMAMI INTERVIEW WITH RAYA MEDIA NETWORK

Dr. Mohammad Al-Hamami, Manager of the Community Engagement Office and Assistant Professor in the Management Information Systems was interviewed by Radio Chat programme from Raya Media Network in Palestine.



Radio Chat programme addressed the concerns about the local and global issues related to social media. Dr. Al-Hamami explained in the interview the importance of social media, its impact on the global and local economy, the current trends of social media, and the use of best practices. The Interview was conducted on 12 March 2017.

HEC WORKSHOP

Academic staff from various colleges from Applied Science University attended 4 days workshop entitled "Professional Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education" which was organised by the Higher Education Council in the Kingdom of Bahrain in cooperation with the British Higher Education Academy.



The workshop was the last in the series of workshops and was held in the period of 17-20 March 2017, in the Regional Center for Information and Communication Technology, Bahrain Training Institute Isa Town. After the final phase, attendees will submit the application and apply directly to HEA for their Fellowships.

Dr Hooriya Deeb, Dr. Ahmed Azzam, Dr. Ammar al-Samarrai, Mr Rashid Ahmad Ismail, Ms. Fajer bin Shams, Ms. Noora Musalam and Mr Ammar Yousif attended the workshop.

FUTURE IT RESEARCH GROUP MEETING

Based on the ASU research strategy and the research group establishment, a meeting to establish a Future IT research group was held on Thursday, 16 March. The meeting was organised by the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies together with the Dean of College of Arts and Science. The attendees were the members of Computer Science Department together with the members of the Management Information System Department.



The meeting started with a presentation from the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Professor Siddeeq Y. Ameen about the importance and initiatives of the research group formulation. This included research group's objectives, issues, criteria, mechanism, funding and privileges and the importance of participation of all disciplines in the group to have collaborative and multidisciplinary research. The funding and support of the group was thoroughly discussed, in order to be aligned with the Kingdom of Bahrain's vision and research priorities.

Many suggestions related to research projects, such as the adoption of cyber security, smart city security, big data analysis and health care information systems monitoring were discussed by the group.

MR RIFAT RECEIVES CERTIFICATE

Mr Rifat Hussein received a certificate upon successfully completing the requirement of the Network Security Basic Administration NS-103. He is now recognised as a Certified SonicWall Security Administrator.

Congratulations!



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"A good conscience is a soft pillow".

German Proverb

Happy Reading

