PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 49th edition of the President's News Digest.

On Tuesday, 4 October 2016, the President attended a private dinner at the British Embassy, hosted by HE the British Ambassador to Bahrain to welcome the new Head of UKTI, Ms Christian Syme, and to say "Good Bye" to the outgoing Head, Ms Heather Hopper. We were the only university attending this dinner and this has given us a golden opportunity to network with important people who can help us with the launch of our new dual degrees with British Universities.

On Wednesday, 5 October, the President attended the Board meeting of AIESEC. We should encourage our students to get involved with this body as it will help them find internships in Bahrain and overseas.

On Thursday, 6 October, Dr Mohammed Yousif, Acting Vice President, hosted an all-academic staff meeting to present their most recent development in the area of faculty electronic attendance. Many thanks go to Rifaat and Shadia for preparing the presentation.

On Monday, 3 October, the President and Ms Ruqaya Mohsin, Director of Marketing and Public Affairs, visited the Editor in Chief of the AlWatan Newspaper, Mr Yusuf Albinkhalil. We managed to secure a detailed interview for the President, which will appear in AlWatan soon.

Prof Robert Newton concluded a 2 weeks visit to help us with programmes with limited confidence, and accreditation and change management issues. Many thanks go to Prof Newton for all his great efforts. Colleagues in Administrative Sciences have been working hard to submit the progress reports for the programmes with limited confidence, which are due on 15 October.

It is pleasing to see our total students' registration have exceeded 3000 for the first time. We need now to provide our students with perfect learning experience in order to retain them. Many thanks go to colleagues in admissions and registration, PR and colleagues in the colleges, especially deans and academic advisors.

An amended accreditation handbook has been recently released by the HEC. Please note that at the application stage, all documentations to support the application should be written in English. The application forms are written in both Arabic and English and the official letters can be prepared in Arabic. It is also mentioned that a scrutiny of the website and other promotional material will be conducted at the application stage.

The SER report needs to be submitted 5 weeks before the inspection begins and not 2 weeks as in the previous handbook. The SER with all supporting materials is only submitted in English.

The new handbook still has 8 areas; the number of standards has increased to 33 with more emphasis on assessment and assessed students' work. The number of key indicators had gone down to 218 instead of 243 by removing some redundant indicators from the previous handbook. The panel will not be using a scoring mechanism of 24 out of 40 (as indicated in previous handbook); they are now making reference to 4 levels of subjective scoring including:

Fully met
Substantially met
Partially met and
Not met

The areas of Governance, Academic Administration, and Teaching need to score "fully met" or "substantially met" in order to achieve accreditation.

The first day of the visit involves a meeting with all staff to brief them about the inspection process and meetings they will have with the leadership team, staff, students, alumni, and employers, etc.

The evidence required during inspection stage is massive. I am asking Ms. Monia to provide a database of required evidence including a color-coding mechanism to make sure that the required evidence during inspection is in place, with allocated responsibilities.

The visiting panel will visit classes and observe the quality of teaching. In addition, they will look at marked scripts. I have asked Dr Assem to arrange a meeting this week for all staff in order to brief them about the new accreditation handbook and major requirements regarding teaching and assessment. It seems that class observations is an important factor for the panel and will rely heavily on it. Because of the importance of accreditation and as class observation is a vital requirement, I will be doing over the next weeks some random visits to classes to see how our colleagues are teaching and help them get prepared for the accreditation visit. I will do this with Dr Assem.

Achieving accreditation is by far the most important activity and our long-term existence depends on it.

The new handbook is available on the HEC web site and Ms. Tania has already circulated a copy. All staff should read the handbook and get familiar with the accreditation process.

We have been reviewing the course portfolios for the summer semester. Here are some observations:

1. The required information according to the checklist is not followed properly, there are missing documents and in some instances signatures are not on the forms.

2. The most important element of course portfolios is the evidence of the achievement of learning outcomes by the students. The students should be assessed at the right level. Assessment methods should be appropriate and should ensure that learning objectives are achieved.

3. Course portfolios are not just mechanistic tools to populate the document but we should ensure that proper content is included.

4. For the current semester we should start the preparation from now ensuring that mid-term exams are set properly, marked properly and they are in line with the learning outcomes.

5. The course portfolios group chaired by myself, our QAAC Centre and our external consultants are happy to help you.
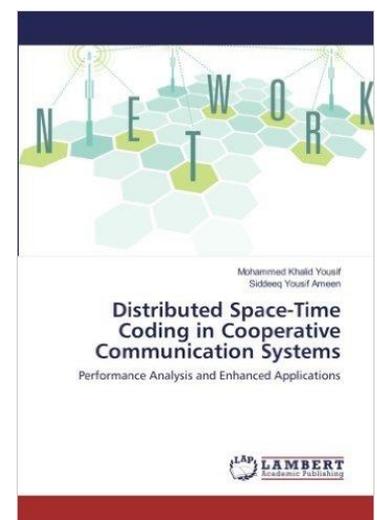
Please give this area the attention it needs, it has to be done properly and as I mentioned many times before this area is now linked to staff appraisal.

The course portfolios group chaired by the President had its first meeting last week and this group now has first sight of the quality of course portfolios of all staff.

ASU RAISED ITS ACHIEVEMENT IN PUBLICATIONS

Professor Siddeeq Yousif Ameen, Dean of Research and Graduate studies announced that ASU raised the publication by 30% in the academic year 2015-2016 compared to 2014-2015. The publication quality also improved to include high quality Journals, indexed conferences together with the International book publication. Professor Siddeeq published a book by Lambert Academic Publishing, entitled, Distributed Space-Time Coding in Cooperative Communication Systems, Performance Analysis and Enahanced Applications.

A distinguished high quality publication has also been achieved by Professor Hussein Zedan the paper entitled: "The Formal Semantics of Program Slicing for Nonterminating Computation". The paper has been published in a high impact factor journal, Journal of Software: Evaluation and Processing published by the well-known publisher Wiley.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE SITE VISIT TO ALMUHARRAQ PARENTS' CARE HOME

ASU Community Engagement Office (CE) in collaboration with College of Law and Bahrain Deserve Team organised a site visit to AlMuharraq Parents' Care Home.

The CE Office was represented by Dr. Mohammad Al-Hamami, Director of the Office, Dr. Hooreya AlDeeb, Dr. Ahmed AlSherawi, Mr. Thaer Mustafa, and Miss Hana Dowaisan. The College of Law was represented by Dr. Qais AlMaaiteh and a number of the College students. Mr. Yousif Bin Ahmed Al Thawadi, member of the Municipality and a number of ASU students participated in the visit.

The site visit included a set of activities and events, such as giving gifts to the elderly, providing meals, and playing traditional music.

This visit comes as a part of different activities held by the University to mark the International Day for the Elderly.

'SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP'

Prof Saad Darwish and colleagues from ASU Community Engagement Office, Dr Mohammed AlHamami and Dr Ahmed AlSherawi attended a lecture delivered by Dr Atef AlShabrawi, an expert in social responsibility on 8 October 2016. Dr Atef gave an inspiring presentation about the concept of 'social entrepreneurship' which has been rapidly developing in the private, public and non-profit sectors over the last few years, and interest in social entrepreneurship continues to nurture. The growing concentration of wealth in the private sector is helping calls for increased corporate social responsibility and more proactive responses to complex social problems.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Prof Saad Darwish, President's Advisor for Special Projects participated in a seminar about the risks facing Bahrain regarding solid waste management. Prof Saad gave some suggestions on how to create systems that leads to better green environment.

Mrs. Eman Salman from the Urban Planning Department /Ministry of Municipalities and Urban Planning Affairs said that Bahrain generates more than 1.2 million tons of solid wastes every year. Daily garbage production across the tiny Gulf nation exceeds 4,500 tons. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) is characterized by high percentage of organic material (around 60 %) which is mainly composed of food wastes.

The government is trying hard to improve waste management scenarios by launching recycling initiatives, waste-to-energy project and public awareness campaign. However more efforts, in the form of effective legislations, large-scale investments, modern SWM technology deployment and environmental awareness, are required from all stakeholders to implement a sustainable waste management system in Bahrain."

A VISIT TO ICT & KM

Dr. Moaiad Khder took his students in Data Communication and Computer Networks course on a scientific visit to ICT & KM at our University on Tuesday, 4 October 2016

Mr. Rifaat Hussien, Director of ICT & KM welcomed Dr. Moaiad and his students and presented a briefing about the University's network infrastructure, types of used servers, systems, cables, and devices.

Mr. Rifaat also showed the students a real example of the twisted pair cables, fiber optic cables, switches and UPS device as an emergency solution for the electricity interruption, and the different types of servers.
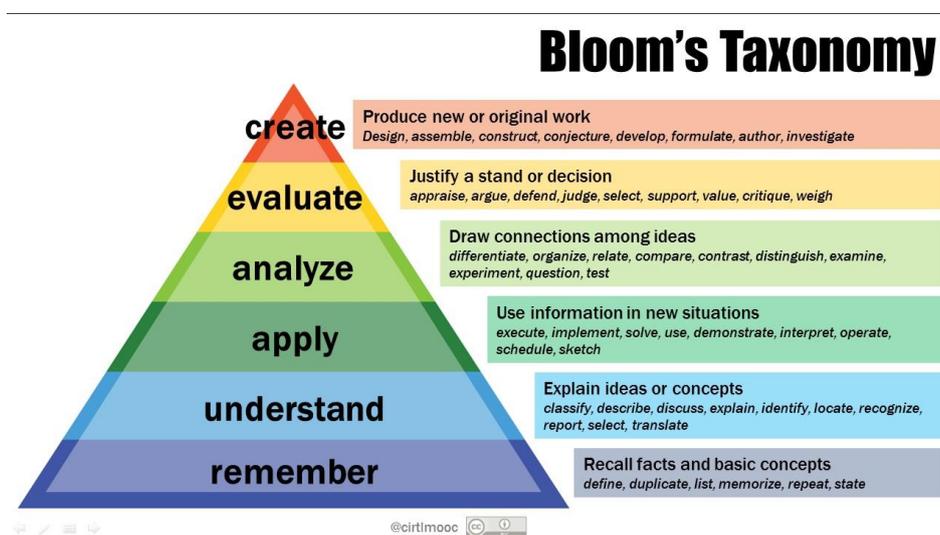
Such a visit motivated and helped the students to get a clear picture on how the computer network and resources work in real situation, and explore what network devices are used in our university.

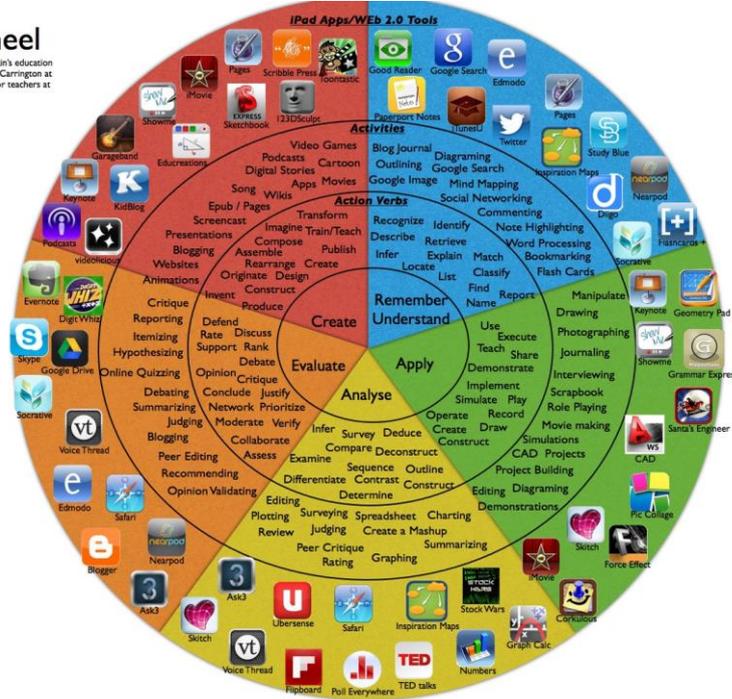## REMINDER OF THE WEEK

What is Bloom Taxonomy?

Bloom's Taxonomy was created in 1956 under the leadership of educational psychologist Dr Benjamin Bloom in order to promote higher forms of thinking in education, such as analyzing and evaluating concepts, processes, procedures, and principles, rather than just remembering facts (rote learning).

Bloom's Taxonomy

create — Produce new or original work
Design, assemble, construct, conjecture, develop, formulate, author, investigate

evaluate — Justify a stand or decision
appraise, argue, defend, judge, select, support, value, critique, weigh

analyze — Draw connections among ideas
differentiate, organize, relate, compare, contrast, distinguish, examine, experiment, question, test

apply — Use information in new situations
execute, implement, solve, use, demonstrate, interpret, operate, schedule, sketch

understand — Explain ideas or concepts
classify, describe, discuss, explain, identify, locate, recognize, report, select, translate

remember — Recall facts and basic concepts
define, duplicate, list, memorize, repeat, state

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iPadagogy Wheel

Originally discovered on the website of Paul Hopkin's education consultancy site mmiweb.org.uk adopted by Allan Carrington at the University of Adelaide and further modified for teachers at Zeeland Public Schools.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If you have no critics, you'll likely have no success".

Michael Forbes

Enjoy Reading