



PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

23 OCTOBER 2016 – ISSUE 51



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 51st edition of the President’s News Digest.

Let me start this edition of the News Digest by re-emphasizing once again the importance of quality which should be at the heart of all what we do, especially in the area of Teaching and Learning.

Quality should be embedded in our value system and daily activities in order to deliver top quality experiences for our students. Our courses and curriculum should be reviewed constantly in order to make our teaching exciting, relevant and serves market needs. We should rely more on modern methods of teaching and take better advantage of the use of technology.

Our course specifications should be reviewed when needed to make sure that our students are achieving the intended learning outcomes. Our course portfolios should be kept up to date and our rigorous assessment of students should ensure that they are achieving the learning outcomes.

We can only transform our University by making our students our top priority and by helping delivering a student experience that it is of the highest quality.

Academic policies should be implemented with rigor and our staff should be observed constantly in their classes to help them improve the quality of their teaching. All of the aforementioned points are extremely important in order to ensure that the fast approaching HEC institutional accreditation is achieved successfully.

Consequently, a workshop on the assessment, moderation and feedback policy and the external examiner policy gathering the VP Academic Affairs, the deans, vice-deans, heads of department, programme coordinators, QAAC team members and the President himself, was organised by the Change Management group.

Last week, a workshop on academic advising was also organised by the Deanship of Admissions and Registration.



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The VP Academic Affairs and Development working closely with the Deans, Vice Deans, HODs, Program Coordinators and QAAC will make sure that academic quality and high standards are maintained in the University. We have invested heavily in the area of staff development and as a result we should all feel capable and responsible for delivering a top quality teaching and learning experience for our students.

Last week was remarkable for the University! On Tuesday, 18 October 2016, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the President were part of "This is Bahrain Rome" that visited His Majesty the King of Bahrain in Sakhir palace before the big event that's taking place in Rome in November to demonstrate that the Kingdom is the land of co-existence, tolerance and peace. The university is participating through a delegation of five people including one of our students. The Chairman and President had the privilege of presenting His Majesty with a gift which is a crystal prototype of our beautiful campus.



On Sunday 16 October, the President participated in a press conference that took place at the Golden Tulip to promote "This is Bahrain Rome". It is rewarding to see the excellent and active participation of the University in "this is Bahrain". We have got a lot of publicity and it was good to see the strong participation of our students.

Many thanks to Dr Faiza, Mohamed, Dr Rawaya, Noora M, Tania, Bahaa, Belal, Noora K, Hala, Khadija, and other colleagues for their support of the University and their presence. I feel very proud that the University is playing a major role in "This is Bahrain, Rome" and helping implementing the vision of His Majesty the king in the area of co-existence and inter faith dialogues. It was also good to see Mr Mohamed Alkhaja, member of Board of Directors participating in the press conference.



I know for sure that Edyta has put a lot of effort to make sure that we are part of this exciting initiative and we will be the only university represented in Rome. I am grateful to Edyta for all her hard work and commitment and determination to include us in such a prestigious activity which is spearheaded by His Majesty the King.

Last week, our colleagues in Administrative Sciences submitted the 3 progress reports for the limited confidence programmes. The review visit is on 10-11 January 2017. It is so important to produce course portfolios of the highest standards as the first thing the review panel will do is to look at Course Portfolios.

On 21 and 22 October, AIESEC held its conference "You Speak Forum" at the University's premises.

This week we are having some important visitors and events which are taken place in the University.

On 24 October, Ms Christian Syme, Head of UKTI Bahrain will be visiting us at 10:00am. Following this, Don Ward from the UK, Chief Executive of Constructing Excellence UK, will be visiting us to explore opportunities for collaboration.

On 25th October, Dr. Roy Blatchford CBE, Executive Director – Education, Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister will be visiting us at 10:00am



On 26 October, we will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bahrain Business Women Society at 11:00am. The President and Board members of this society will be attending; all staff are welcome to join us in this ceremony which is taking place at Abdulla Nass Auditorium.

On 30 October, we would have produced 52 editions of the News Digest. We will be having a small celebration inviting the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and all of you to cut a cake and show you a hard bound copy of the 52 editions. The event will take place at 12:30 on Sunday 30 October, Abdulla Nass Auditorium.

Let me finish by congratulating Prof Saad Znad on achieving his HEA fellowship status. This makes the total number of HEA fellows and senior fellows in the University to be seventeen and I am confident that some more good news will come our way in this area in the next few weeks.

“THIS IS BAHRAIN” ROME, ITALY PRESS CONFERENCE

On Sunday, 16 October 2016, The President, Prof Ghassan Aouad participated in the press conference “This is Bahrain” Rome, Italy that took place in The Golden Tulip Hotel. More than 30 students from ASU participated in this event to show their support to their beloved University and their advocacy to the Kingdom of Bahrain as ASU is the only University selected to participate in this great event.

Ms. Edyta Przybyla who has an active role in “This Is Bahrain”, Ms Tania Kashou, Staff from the Deanships of Student Affairs & Evening Studies and Admission & Registration also attended the press conference.



WORKSHOP ON POLICIES OF ASSESSMENT, MODERATION AND FEEDBACK

On 20 October 2016 a workshop was organised to train academic staff on the policies of assessment, moderation and feedback which have been updated to fit the HEC requirements.

The change management group would like to thank all the academic staff who have attended this workshop and participated actively by discussing the main issues and impact of the two policies. Some comments of the staff during the workshop have been taken into account.





The external moderation of grading and feedback is made by the Programme External Examiner at the end of the second semester. Ideally this external examination is done after each exam. This should be done at least for the new programmes at ASU. For the other programmes all academic staff should ensure that the internal moderation of grading and feedback is done properly and systematically.

ASU HOSTS AIESEC YOUTH SPEAK FORUM

AIESEC is a global, independent, non-profit organization run by students and graduates that aims to enable youth to convert their ideas into actions in issues mainly related to leadership and management.

The President Professor Ghassan Aouad also a member of the board of AIESEC, hosted at ASU, AIESEC forum that was held on 21 and 22 October 2016 in Abdulla Nass hall, and coordinated with the Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies. The forum was under the patronage of HE Sheikh Dr Abdulla Bin Ahmed Bin Abdulla Al-Khalifa, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The conference started with a welcoming speech by the President of the University and Board Member of AIESEC, followed by an address by the President of AIESEC Bahrain who spoke about the history and achievements of AIESEC. Following this, an inspirational speech was made by HE the Patron of the conference, Sheikh Abdulla, where he spoke about climate change, quality of education and gender issues.

The morning session of the first day was concluded with yet another inspirational speech by Mr Amin El-Sharqawi, UNDP Resident representative in Bahrain, where he spoke about the 17 sustainable development goals of the UN. The event was attended by Ms Ruqaya Mohsin and Ms Edyta Przybyla from Marketing and PR and over 125 students and distinguished guests and speakers.

OXFORD BUSINESS GROUP (OBG) AT ASU

On Wednesday, 19 October 2016 a representative from the Oxford Business Group spent the day in the main lobby of ASU where students and staff had the unique opportunity to fill the subscription forms and get one year complimentary access to all OBG's online library.



The Oxford Business Group is a global economic research and business intelligence company headquartered in London, UK. They create annual economic reports in 34 countries in the world. These reports are used by the high-end business community (CEOs, ministers, analysts, etc.) for their investment research on fast growing economies



Student and staff who took advantage of this opportunity will have access to the same sources.



BUMUN CONFERENCE AND TRAINING SESSIONS

The Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies is taking part in the 12th BUMUN Conference (Bahrain Universities Model United Nations) and started with a group of students with the preparation on a weekly basis with training sessions at GOYS Science Center. The Conference will be held on the 26 & 27 November 2016 under the Patronage of H.H. Shaikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa.



STUDENTS' COUNCIL CANDIDATES MEETING

The Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies held a meeting on Wednesday 19 October 2016 with the students' council candidates with the aim to welcome them to the Deanship and explain to them the rules and regulations of the elections. In addition, a draw was done for the candidates on the dates of the elections campaign that will take place on the Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 October 2016.



The University President Professor Ghassan Aouad who attended the meeting gave advice and directions to the potential candidates, as he is always keen and dedicated in encouraging and supporting our Students.

ROYAL COURT'S INVITATION TO ASU

Applied Science University was invited by the Royal Court to attend the opening of the third session of the legislature in the presence of HRH the Crown Prince and other dignitaries.

His Majesty King Hamid on 16 October 2016 hailed Bahrain Landmarks strides since the inception of its reform project. The King saluted the loyal people of Bahrain for their crucial contribution to the reform milestone. He promised to continue build the state that protects the basic rights, balanced liberties and honest democratic work, hailing the National Assembly members for assuming their legislative duties. Bahrain derives its strength from the spirit of fraternity, co-existence and moderation, stressing the importance of transmitting the inspiring message to coming generations.



CE OFFICE PARTICIPATED IN ORGANIZING WORLD CUP JUNIOR FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

ASU Community Engagement Office represented by Miss Hanaa Dowaisan a member of the Office; participated in organising the World Cup Junior Fencing Championships 2016 under the patronage of H.H. Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Miss Hanaa received an award from H.E. Shaikh Ibrahim bin Salman Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Fencing Federation for her participation in organising the Championships.



ASU’S PARTICIPATION IN “PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Secretariat General of the Higher Education Council conducted a workshop on “Professional Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Programme” as part of its strategy to promote the professional level of the academic staff in the Higher education institutes in Bahrain, and to prepare them to achieve the rank of professional Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy UK, based on the agreement between the Government of Bahrain and the Higher Education Academy in the UK.



The workshop took place in ICT Regional Center located in the Gulf Hotel Executive offices building from 13-17 Oct 2016 from 8am to 4 pm.

ASU nominated 7 staff members to attend the workshop, Dr. Ahmad Azzam Elmasri, Dr. Hooreya Aldeeb, Dr. Ammar Alsammarræe, Mr. Ammar Ahmed, Mr. Rashed Ismail, Miss Fajer Ali, and Ms. Noora Musalam. The group has to attend again two more workshops of four days each in January and April 2017, in order to qualify them to apply for the Fellowship certificate from The Higher Education Academy in UK.

Director of Scientific Research in HEC, Dr Farzana Al-Maraghi was in charge of the workshop which was very successful. The trainers selected a group of Mentors to follow up with the local staff until the next workshop in Jan 2017; Dr. Hooreya Aldeeb was selected as a mentor for ASU staff.

TURN8 – PRE – ACCELERATOR – DEMO DAY

Dr. Mohammad Al-Hamami, Director of Community Engagement Office participated in “TURN8 – Pre – Accelerator – Demo Day”. The event was the last phase of a programme where the selected batch of technology startups in the Kingdom of Bahrain presented their ideas to a panel of investors and attendees from the startup community and experts.



The event was powered by Bahrain Economic Development Board in collaboration with Startup MGZN, and in partnership with Tamkeen, Bahrain Development Bank, Zain Bahrain, and CH9.

VISIT BY HE THE PAKISTANI MINISTER OF HEALTH



Last week, the University was visited by H.E the Pakistani Minister of Health and H.E the Pakistani Ambassador to Bahrain. The delegation was received by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President of the University and Vice Presidents and Director of Administration and Finance and Director of Marketing and public Relations.

The delegation toured the University’s facilities and expressed their admiration of our Campus. In addition, opportunities for future collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Pakistani Universities and ASU were discussed.



ASU'S PARTICIPATION IN "WALKING WITH THE BLIND"

ASU participated in "Walking with the Blind" event which has been organised by the Friendship Association of the Blind under the patronage of HE Shaikh Hisham Bin Abdul-Rahman Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate.

The event was held under the slogan (Community support for the blind... is a duty for us all) to celebrate White Cane Day near Coral Bay on Saturday, 22 October 2016.



REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Election of Students' Council, 26 October
Signing of MOU with Bahrain Business Women Society, 26 October
Anniversary of President's News Digest, 30 October

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Pity the nation that wears a cloth it does not weave and eats a bread it does not harvest."

Gibran Khalil Gibran



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