

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

7 JANUARY 2018 – VOLUME 3 - ISSUE 10

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 10th issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.



I would like to start this issue by reminding everybody that this academic year will demand from us exceptional efforts as we go through accreditation, program reviews for Arts and Science, and NQF placement of our Bachelor in Business Administration and Bachelor in Law.



In this issue, I will be covering the “all staff meeting” that was held on 4 January 2018 which has covered our preparation for accreditation and a presentation about our revised strategic plan. More than 130 academic and admin staff attended the presentation that was delivered by the President. In this presentation, I briefed all colleagues about the visit to the University by the Director of Accreditation and Licensing of the HEC, Dr Muna AlQouz, and her colleagues on 3 January 2018 (the President, Dr Assem, Prof Hilal and Ms Mariam took part in this meeting). Dr Muna confirmed to us that the accreditation inspection visit will happen around March/April 2018. Once we received the confirmation letter from the HEC, we need to submit the SER report and all supporting materials within 4 weeks of receiving the letter.

Accreditation is a stamp of quality which should be at the heart of all what we do. We have to be well prepared and as I mentioned many times before our priority areas should be 1) students: quality of teaching, class observations, student experience, extra curricular activities, course portfolios, admissions, etc; 2) staff: development, support, mentoring, rewards and promotion, research, quality of teaching, community engagement; 3) bylaws, Policies, Committees, Handbooks: they should all be up-to-date and strictly followed; 4) facilities and resources: Moodle, library, labs, web site, classrooms; 5) governance and management: committees, audit trail of decisions, closing the loops, strategic planning, KPIs; and finally 6) quality assurance and management: APRR, Periodic Program Reviews, quality control, auditing, etc.

Colleagues through emails interactions provided the following good practices in the University and suggested others for further improvements.



Faculty and Admin Staff Development: good teaching conference, HEA training, workload model, training needs analysis, induction day; **Students Support:** golden rules of teaching banner, the good teacher banner, graduates attributes banner, students clubs, students conference, incubation center, orientation day, students experience, theory and practice approach, internships, purpose and pride within vision, open environment for students, preparing students for the work place, staff and students



working together, honoring students with good grades, financial aid, English training center, dedicated area for research in the library, students complaints system, students with disabilities, E-learning, Moodle, open day for schools' students, identifying and caring for students with health problems and special needs or disabilities, students' advising, students at risk, online feedback to students on assessment using Moodle; **Research:** international conference and proceedings, funded projects, the ASU scientific journal; **Teaching:** cultural educational exhibition, international programs, class observation; **Strategic Planning:** KPIs, operational plans , budgeting process, audit reports, HEC reports, committees structure & minutes , the strategy house, dashboard, international partnerships; **Communication:** News Digest, ASU app, communication group, All staff meetings, University magazine, students flash, web site, social media, 10 year book; **Admin and IT:** automated systems, budgeting , decision support systems; **Community Engagement:** students council and students involvement, projects, reports, consultancy and advisory and knowledge sharing, community support by ASU (Staff, Students, Alumni), open campus, public outreach; **Stakeholders involvement:** advisory boards, employability workshop, market needs workshop, entrepreneurship workshop , alumni club; **Quality:** quality manual, auditing, committees, quality day, visibility of university policies and regulations; **Infrastructure:** campus including our buildings and future developments, library,

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Fajer Bin Shams

Position: Lecturer

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

I was born in Muharraq in 1984. My childhood was wonderful as my parents put their greatest effort to provide us with the education and freedom we need.

I completed my bachelor's degree in Accounting and graduated with honors from Applied Science University; consequently, I was selected by the University to work as Teaching and Research Assistant.

I was granted a scholarship by Applied Science University to obtain my M.Sc. in Accounting and Finance and proudly graduated with honors and was appointed as a lecturer at the College of Administrative Sciences.

I hope to further pursue my education and start working on my Ph.D. in Finance Insha'Allah.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I've worked for three years as a Teaching and Research Assistant, and I have been working as a lecturer at the University in the Department of Accounting & Finance for the last three years.

social areas, labs, health and safety procedures; **Other suggestions include:** staff awareness of ethical responsibilities in dealing with students, visits to sponsoring organizations and building relationships, celebrating best practices in different areas (discipline, teaching, course portfolio), spread the word and make all parties aware of advantages of working together, regular visits to ministries, visiting professors to the university, external activities including lectures and debates, partnerships with associations and civil society institutions, and finally developing a healthy environment for staff and students.

I am pleased to inform you that all our handbooks and publications have now been collected centrally, both physically and electronically, by the President's Office and will be stored on the accreditation portal once we have undertaken a final check. These include: University Bylaws, University Prospectus, 4 Colleges Handbooks, Research Handbook, Graduate Studies Handbook, Students Handbook, Students Activities Flash Booklet, Staff Handbook, Health and Safety Manual, Admissions and Registration Manual, Students Application Manual, Quality Assurance Manual, Committees Manual, Policies Manual, News Digest Booklet, HEC Monthly Reports Booklet, University Magazine, International Conference Proceedings, 10 years book, and Strategic Plan Booklet. This is a major achievement and will be needed for accreditation purposes.

In the presentation about the revised strategic plan, I covered the seven pillars of our plan. The core areas are: Teaching & Learning, Research, and Community Engagement supported by the four enabling areas that are: Student Support, Internationalization & Partnerships, Quality Assurance, and Sustainable Growth.

These Seven Pillars were identified because they are key to achievement of our Mission, and our primary purpose of serving our community through provision of high quality education and the promotion of a culture of learning, research and engagement with the community. The KPIs associated with these seven pillars were discussed and explained.

Another presentation will be arranged for students in order to keep them abreast about the importance of accreditation and our preparation. In addition, we will brief them about our revised strategic plan. The Deanships of Students Affairs and Students Council are working on this arrangement.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

The University has a good reputation and bright future. Currently, I think it's one of the best universities in Bahrain.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I am very pleased to help my colleagues (academics and administrators) in various fields, as it enhances my work experience and deepens my connections with peers to work as a family at ASU.

I am also very pleased to help students and guide them academically.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

Traveling and reading books

6. Tell us about your favourite food

Seafood

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

Nowadays, I am reading two books; the first one is "The 48 Laws of Power" – by Robert Greene & the second one is "Ask & it is Given" – by Esther and Jerry Hicks.

8. Final words

I wish the University all success in achieving the institutional accreditation with God's will.

I hope to provide more assistance to all my colleagues at the University and to my students.

Good luck to all.

LETTER FROM ASU GRADUATE STUDENT WHO WON A SCHOLARSHIP TO CHINA AT SHENZHEN UNIVERSIADE

This great opportunity is a one-year scholarship sponsored by H.E Governor of Capital Governorate, Bahrain and H.E the Mayor of Shenzhen, China and started in September 2017/2018.



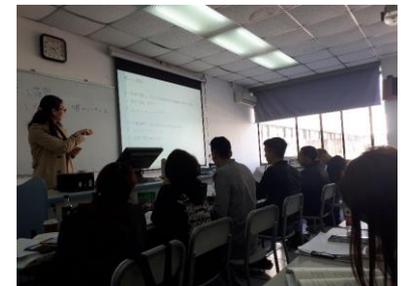
The scholarship was arranged by the Office of Career Development and Alumni Affairs at the Deanship of Student Affairs. The message below sent to ASU as part of Mohammed's regular updates.

Dear all at ASU,

"Tomorrow Jan 8 /2018 language students start their final examinations! We have 3 subjects," Reading, Writing & Listening". Chinese language is unique, it is hard to learn by all means! even students whom finished the entire program agree that it was very difficult yet all they learned was to manage by! The daily language, nothing deep really.

The problem is not just the drawings! One really needs to learn and memorize the following;

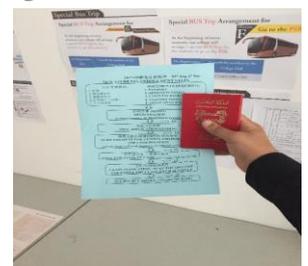
- Stroke Names, Stroke Order, Radicals, Pinyin (writing the word in Latin letters), Tones (there are 4 tones in Mandarin Chinese, also there is a rule that indicates which letter carries the tone) and of course Word meaning.



I found that learning Chinese from some books, online courses and mixing with the community is something, studying the language is a whole different thing.

It took me more than 3 months to get the grasp of the language, it was weird voices in class at the beginning, now it makes sense, also it was really hard at first. Most students said it took them 2-6 months just to be able to get the language, but then it gets easy (but that is only if one had determination and worked hard every day). Some students in my class gave up long ago, stopped showing after midterm, then again they did not really want to learn the language".

I met many students from different countries who came to learn Chinese, some from Mexico whom took a good 20 hours+++ flight to be in China and learn. It is an international language and one of the most important languages for many years to come, so I advise students to start learning Chinese language.



The funniest thing so far is that Chinese find Arabic names to be very difficult and really long, which why they have not transfer the scholarship funds till date! they keep hesitating thinking " This Can ' t be right"! in fact, to us Arabs we use our Grandfather's name, or Father grandfather's name which is very confusing to Chinese people, not to mention that EVERY LETTER IN ARABIC CONTAINS A TONE! It is so hilarious.

I really like it here so decided to stay another year, have few plans been working on the previous years and the timing could not be better. Returning in summer of course.

Since I have studied many languages and now Chinese, therefore I can guide Arabic speakers to learn Chinese language, for me it seems to be taking longer time than others, for obvious reasons. Unlike the Koreans and Japanese who manage to learn Chinese quicker, of course Arabic language is unique as well.

I have taught my teachers some words in Arabic during break time, they all found it to be very unusual to them.

My best wishes to all you at ASU.”

Kind regards,

Mohammed

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

- Deadline for submitting progress reports for Arts and Science 4 January 2018
- Deadline for submitting applications to the BQA for placing our Bachelors in Business Administration and Law on the NQF Framework 18 January 2018
- Staff Development
 - Crossing the Bridge Together:

No.	Topic	Presenter	Day	Date	Time	Target
1	Course Portfolio Management/ Study plan	Dr Assem/ QA Unit	Wednesday	10- Jan	10:00	All
2	Presentation and communication Skills in Higher education	Dr. Bishr/ Dr. Rawya	Wednesday	10- Jan	14:00	All
3	Publishing Scientific Research	Prof Mahmoud	Thursday	11-Jan	10:00	All
4	Methods of Participation in Community Engagement	Dr. Mohamed Al Hamamy	Thursday	11-Jan	14:00	All
5	Good Teaching Conference	All Academics	Sunday	14-Jan	All Day	All
6	Good Teaching Conference	All Academics	Monday	15-Jan	All Day	All
7	International quality assurance	Dr. Roy/ Dr. Al Aghbary	Tuesday	16-Jan	10:00	QA- Interested
8	Reflective Writing	UoB Goup	Tuesday	16-Jan	14:00	HEA- Interested
9	Conducting Action Research	UoB Goup	Wednesday	17-Jan	10:00	HEA- Interested
10	Assessment and Feedback in Higher Education	UoB Goup	Thursday	18-Jan	10:00	HEA- Interested
11	Annual Programme Review Report (APRR) preparation.	QA Unit	Thursday	18-Jan	13:00	Programme Leaders- HODs- Heads of QAA units
12	Creating an innovative and responsive student experience	Dr. Faiza	Thursday	25-Jan	10:00	All- Admin
13	Creativity at Work Place	Dr. Shamsan	Thursday	25-Jan	13:00	All- Admin

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.”

Benjamin Franklin

 *Happy Reading!* 