

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

23 JULY 2017 – VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 38

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Message from the President
- Interview of the Week
  - Dr Baha Eldin Makkawi  
Mohammed Gaily
- A farewell gathering organized by the Department of Business Administration for Dr Ziad Mohammed Zurigat
- Strategic Planning Workshop
- Students Financial Aid committee's meeting regarding funding for the next academic year 2017/2018
- Policy Of The Week
  - Career Services Policy
- Reminder of the Week
  - Effectiveness of Quality Management and Assurance from the BQA programme review handbook
- Quote of the Week

CONTACT US



Office No: (+973) 16036163

Email: [ayat.nass@asu.edu.bh](mailto:ayat.nass@asu.edu.bh)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 38th issue of the second year of the President's news Digest.

I would like to start this edition of the News Digest by addressing the important role of the University Management Committee, which is known in some other universities as the executive group or senior management team. In Area 2 of the Accreditation Handbook, a lot of emphasis is put on the management and administration of the University. This committee, which, is chaired by the President, meet on at least a monthly basis (in our University, this committee is meeting on almost a weekly basis).

This committee consists of the President, 2 VPs, advisors to the President, Dean of Admissions and Registration, Director of Quality Assurance and Accreditation Centre, Head of Governance and Strategic planning, Director of Marketing and Public Affairs, Director of Internal Audit Unit, and Secretary General of the Secretariat of Councils. This committee is served and administered by the Director of the President's Office.

The President of the University is delegated by the BOTs the responsibility of the day-to-day running of the University with the help of the University Management committee. The University President is responsible for leading and managing the university's affairs up to the highest standards and quality; supervising its functions in its various academic and non-academic departments; overseeing the implementation of the university's development strategy, vision, goals and values; developing and improving the competence of human resources; developing the function mechanisms of the colleges and supporting the administrative departments; and maintaining ongoing communications with the regulatory bodies, industry, government, and with the local, regional and global universities. In addition, the university's president plays an important role in ensuring the financial sustainability and growth of the University. It is also important for the University's president to promote the University through his regional and global networks and to act as an ambassador for the university. His role is also externally facing by ensuring that the university is benefitting from the opportunities and initiatives

## INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

triggered through his external environmental scanning insights and networks. The President is also seen as the link between the BOTs and the University's administration. In this duty, he is responsible to report progress to the BOTs on various issues including strategic directions, academic and administrative issues, KPIs measurement, and risk management. Any risks associated with finance and reputation, are reported instantly to the Chairman of the BOTs.

The President is assisted by 2 VPS namely the VP for Academic Affairs and Development and the VP for Administration, Finance and Community Engagement. The 2 VPs are the 2 main pillars of the institutions and performing their roles to the highest standards will ensure the smooth running and development of the University. The Vice President for Academic Affairs & Development is responsible for providing general supervision and leadership over all the academic affairs of the university and coordinating with the University' President, Deans and other colleagues in order to improve the academic performance of the university and make the university live up to the ranks of other leading universities. The Vice President for Admin, Finance, and Community Engagement is responsible for providing general supervision and leadership over all the administrative, finance and community engagement affairs of the university and coordinating with the University's President and Heads of support units in order to improve the administrative performance of the university and according to international standards and benchmarks.

The Dean of Admissions & Registration is responsible for providing general supervision and leadership over the Deanship of Admissions & Registration and its employees, and ensuring that the university's strategic goals and action plans relating to admissions and registration are implemented. It is his responsibility to ensure that the University is complying with the Regulatory Bodies bylaws and the admissions policy and requirements of the University are strictly adhered to.

The Director of the QAAC is responsible for implementing a quality management system that meets international best practices in higher education, as well as complying with the relevant legislative and professional standards and regulations of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Director of Marketing and Public Affairs is responsible for managing and supervising all staff in the directorate, developing plans and strategies to promote students recruitment and meeting targets in this area, and establishing a closer relationship between the university and the local and regional institutions and industry and government.

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



**Name:** Baha Eldin Makkawi  
Mohammed Gaily - College of Administrative Sciences

**Position:** Head of the Department of Political Science and Academic Staff in the Department of Political Science

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

I was born in a middle-class family in northern Sudan. I lived a simple, quiet and happy childhood. Our area lies directly on the Nile. I practiced agriculture for a long time when I was a student, so I am an excellent farmer. I studied primary and intermediate school in this area and then moved to Khartoum to complete my secondary and university education. I received my BSc. in Political Science from the University of Khartoum, as well as my MA, and Ph.D.

I started working in university teaching in 1995 and worked as head of the political science department for 7 years in Sudan and then as dean of the college (with more than 30 thousand students and 202 lecturers and professors) until I came to Bahrain in 2011 to work at the University of Applied Sciences.

I served as a political advisor to the Council of Ministers of Sudan for 5 years. I also served as Director of Research at four research centers, one of which holds United Nations consultative status.

### 2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I joined ASU in October 2011, and became head of the department on 1/1/2012 and still head of the department.



The Head of Governance and Strategic planning is responsible for ensuring all bylaws, policies, and committees are up to date and complied with, and for following up the development and completion of the strategic, operational, KPIs and risk management plans of the university, ensuring that all actors in the university embrace them and achieve their requirements.

The Director of the Internal audit Unit is responsible for conducting all internal audit activities in the University and to produce reports that will ultimately be submitted to the BOTs.

The Secretary General of the Secretariat of Councils is responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the BOTs and University Council and the proper feedback between the various councils including the Department Councils, College Councils and the Quality assurance and Accreditation Council.

The advisors to the president provide advisory opinions that will enhance the development of the university and lead on special projects.

The University Management Committee invites on a regular basis all Deans and Heads of Administrative Units to participate and take part in its deliberations under an extended management mechanism.

On Monday 17 July, a panel from the HEC visited the University to check our classrooms and labs. I am grateful to the 2 VPs, Dr Oday and Mr Abdulla for all the hard work they put in order to prepare well for this visit.

On the afternoon of Monday 17 July, the Students Financial Aid Committee met to discuss the funding for next year. The Deanship of Students Affairs has issued a call in order to allow needy students to apply for funding based on the conditions specified by the committee.

On Tuesday 18 July, the President met Ms Paula Boast, Deputy Chair of the Bahrain British Business Forum (BBBF) and Mr Christopher Core, Member of the CIOB Bahrain, to discuss opportunities to promote the work of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) and our new Engineering Programs. Following this meeting, HE the British Ambassador received us on the 19 July and in the presence of Ms Christian Symes, Head of UKTI, in order to brief him about our joint initiatives. The University will soon join the BBBF, which will expose us to a very active network in Bahrain, which will help us promote our British degrees.

On Thursday 20 July, a workshop on KPIs was organized by the Governance and Strategic Planning Unit and facilitated by Mr Hatem. The President and members of the extended management group attended in order to address this important issue and to update our KPIs. In the afternoon of the same day, the Strategic Planning and Risk Management Committee chaired by the Chairman of the BOTs met to discuss issues related to SWOT analysis, risk register and internal audit reports.

### **3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University**

I wish the university more success and continue to be a beacon of knowledge in Bahrain and Gulf as a whole.

### **4. What do you enjoy most about your job?**

I feel that I was born to this profession, I enjoy everything related to it: teaching, scientific research, and the like. But what makes me feel happier in my work is that I am contributing to the development of the future generation, so I am happy to do everything I can for my students.

### **5. Tell us about your hobbies**

Reading, Press Writing, and I have limited poetic attempts.

### **6. Tell us about your favourite food**

In general, I eat everything I feel is useful, but I prefer some popular Sudanese food.

### **7. Tell us about the book you are reading now**

I read these days a book of "Liquid Times: Living in an Age of Uncertainty", written by Zygmunt Baumann. It is one of the most interesting books I have read

### **8. Final words**

We are coming for the summer vacation, I wish everyone a happy summer holiday, please come back more enthusiastic and ready to work for the development of our university. Many thanks to Ustaza Tania for her great efforts in preparing (President News Digest) periodically and regularly.



As it is the last week before we take our summer breaks, I would like to conclude this edition by wishing our colleagues an enjoyable summer break with their families and to wish our colleagues who are leaving us bright futures wherever they are. Please come back early September energized and full of brilliant and innovative ideas. The year ahead is very challenging as accreditation is looming very fast and we have to be very well prepared for it.

### **A farewell gathering organized by the Department of Business Administration for Dr Ziad Mohammed Zurigat:**

All colleagues from the Department of Business Administration joined together on Friday 20 July 2017 to present their farewell wishes and gratitude to Dr Ziad who joined ASU about 2 years ago and successfully led the College of Administrative Sciences.

The atmosphere of the farewell gathering was buzzing with a mix of feelings, with friendship and full of gratitude to celebrate together the great achievements of the Department and the College under Dr Ziad's leadership and with sadness as Dr Ziad will be leaving Bahrain to return to his position in Jordan.

Wishing Dr Ziad every success for his endeavors and a bright future inshallah. "Thank you Dr Ziad" that was the axiom of the gathering by all Colleagues.

### **Strategic Planning Workshop:**

As ASU has embarked in updating its Strategic Plan 2015-2020 amidst about half-way of its implementation, the Governance and Strategic Planning Unit organized on Thursday 20 July 2017 a workshop to review the university's institutional KPIs.

The workshop lasted for about 2 hours and a half from 9:00 am to 11:30 am and was attended by the key and senior management staff involved in the implementation of the objectives of all the strategic areas for the university: Teaching & Learning; Research; Community Engagement; Student Support; Internationalization and Partnerships; Sustainable Growth; Quality Assurance.

Updating the strategic plan is basically informed by the level of achievement of its KPIs, but also by the changes in both the economic and legislative environment of the Higher Education sector in Bahrain and the region. To better apprehend these changes and how they may affect the university, ASU has already updated both its SWOT Analysis and Risk Register via a series of workshops and sessions.

This work will continue and other sessions will be held in order to finalize the updated strategic plan and institutional KPIs of the university. These efforts are being consolidated by a consultancy firm specialized in Higher Education based in New York, USA.



## Students Financial Aid committee's meeting regarding funding for the next academic year 2017/2018:

The Financial Aid committee met on Monday 17 July 2017 to discuss first the progress of students' that are receiving financial support for this academic year 2016-2017 then reviewed important aspects of the financial support for the next academic year 2017-2018. This year 28 students benefited from the financial aid that varied between 10% - 100%. The Deanship of Student Affairs would like to thank the Management for this great initiative, for providing this opportunity to many students and indeed for making many students dreams come true. The Chairman of the committee Professor Ghassan Aouad agreed to start advertising the opening of financial aid for the next academic year immediately and to set the deadline for the submission of the financial aid applications and the necessary documents by the 31 August 2017. It was also agreed that the sub-committee will conduct interviews for each applicant; the members of the sub-committee will assess the student's case individually and will refer the results to the Students Financial Committee that will take the final decision by the second week of September.



## POLICY OF THE WEEK

### Career Services Policy

#### Policy Statement

The University serves to educate and develop talent that can serve the community and help businesses and Industry to prosper. It is vital that the University is able to link the current situation and the economic environment to its curriculum to provide students with practical and realistic career expectations.

Career Services Office within the Deanship of Student Affairs encourages to bridge the gap between the industry and the University. Its prime role is to serve, provide guidance and advise students regarding their career related issues. The Career Services Office works on the following objectives:

- Establishing relations with industry and businesses in the region by; (a) increasing awareness about the programs and courses offered at the University to relevant and interested industries and businesses, (b) building a portfolio of current students and their credentials and sharing it with interested businesses (c) gathering recruitment requirements from interested businesses, (d) inviting industry or business representatives to visit the University and share information about their organizations, (e) gathering inputs from industry experts about course structure to identify possible additions or removal of obsolete information
- Increasing student awareness about interested organizations by organizing trips, site visits and facilitating student internships in interested organizations
- Scheduling on campus or off campus interviews for students
- Representing the University in job fairs and making students aware of upcoming events
- Organizing a Career Week at the end of each academic year
- Establishing a network of past recruiters and gathering feedback about the recruitment process

## REMINDER OF THE WEEK



### 3.1.4 Effectiveness of Quality Management and Assurance (from the BQA programme review handbook)

**Indicator 4:** The arrangements in place for managing the programme, including quality assurance and continuous improvement, contribute to giving confidence in the programme.

**3.1.4.1** The institution's policies, procedures and regulations are applied effectively and consistently across the college.

**3.1.4.2** The programme is managed in a way that demonstrates effective and responsible leadership.

**3.1.4.3** There is a clear quality assurance management system, in relation to the programmes within the college that is consistently implemented, monitored and evaluated.

**3.1.4.4** Academics and support staff have an understanding of quality assurance and their role in ensuring effectiveness of provision.

**3.1.4.5** There is a policy and procedures for the development of new programmes to ensure the programmes are relevant, fit for purpose, and comply with existing regulations.

**3.1.4.6** There are arrangements for annual internal programme evaluation and implementation of recommendations for improvement.

**3.1.4.7** There are arrangements for periodic reviews of the programmes that incorporate both internal and external feedback, and mechanisms are in place to implement recommendations for improvement.

**3.1.4.8** The structured comments collected from, for example, students' and other stakeholders' surveys are analysed and the outcomes are used to inform decisions on programmes with mechanisms for improvement and are made available to the stakeholders.

**3.1.4.9** The arrangements for identifying continuing professional development needs for all staff and meeting them are effective. These are monitored and evaluated.

**3.1.4.10** Where appropriate for the programme type, there is continuous scoping of the labour market to ensure that programmes are up-to-date.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“Success is almost totally dependent upon drive and persistence. The extra energy required to make another effort or try another approach is the secret of winning”*

*Denis Waitley*

# Happy Reading

