

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 40th issue of the second year of the President's News Digest. I would like to start this edition by proposing a framework for our research themes and project. This is a draft proposal and feedback from colleagues is welcomed.



Research is one of the core pillars in our strategic plan. In order to develop a research culture in the University, we are proposing the following research framework. It is evident through external scanning of the environment taking into account the HEC research strategy and Vision 2030 that this research framework will help develop solutions that can assist the economic and social development of Bahrain.

In the new HEC rules, we need to spend 3% of our revenue on research activities. In order to use the funds wisely, it is proposed that a series of research projects will be developed within the proposed framework. For a theme to be sustainable, a minimum of 6 researchers should constitute the core team of this theme.

Research						
	Sustainable Development	Future IT	Economic Growth	Teaching and Learning	Women Leadership	Co-existence and Tolerance
College of Administrative Sciences						
College of Arts & Science						
College of Law						
College of Engineering						

The following is an indicative list of research projects (minimum 3 researchers per project) for the above 6 research themes:

Sustainable Development

- The use of recycled waste/materials in construction.
- Building Information Modeling in support of sustainability.

Future IT

- Cyber security.
- Virtual Reality to support modeling and simulation of cities and infrastructures.



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Economic Growth

- The effect of the decline of oil and gas prices on the economy.
- Islamic Finance.
- Competitiveness in the Arab World.

Teaching and Learning

- The use of new technologies and methods in learning and teaching.
- A holistic view of the educational system in Bahrain and how primary, secondary and tertiary education could be linked

Women Leadership

- Women Leadership in the Higher Education sector in Bahrain and the GCC.
- Bahraini Women Leaders in Business.

Co-existence and Tolerance

- Co-existence and tolerance and their impact on society.
- The contribution of expatriates living in Bahrain to the economic and social development of the Kingdom.

For every project, a research proposal needs to be submitted and should include the following: a research proposal title, principal and co-investigators, description of the proposed research and its context, aspects of collaboration, proposed research including work plan, management and resources, and dissemination and exploitation.

The above research framework and its projects will help us in creating research groups that will drive research in the University. It is evident from the number of publications produced over the last 3 years that the number is increasing and the quality is getting better. This has given us the confidence that we can create a strong research culture and the proposed framework will help us in achieving this.

POLICY OF THE WEEK

ACAD25: Benchmarking Policy

Summary

10 Jan 2016

Prepared by VP Academic Affairs and Development

Definition of Benchmarking

Benchmarking is a quality process which enables the university to compare their services/activities/products in order to identify their comparative strengths and weaknesses as a basis for self-improvement and/or self-regulation.

Selection of the benchmarking partner

- ✓ Should have a compatible mission, goals and objectives
- ✓ Should be of comparable size
- ✓ Should have a comparable / similar discipline mix
- ✓ Should have a commitment to quality improvement and a willingness to share
- ✓ Should demonstrate a good performance in the areas to be benchmarked

Benchmarking approval process

- ✓ All benchmarking projects shall be authorized by the QAA Council.
- ✓ The project owner shall prepare a project proposal and define the selection criteria of the identified partner.
- ✓ The proposal shall be reviewed by the Dean of the College to proceed for approval by the University Council.
- ✓ It is **advisable** that the University enters into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the selected partner to clearly define the terms of information exchange, **confidentiality**, intellectual property etc.

Benchmarking exercise process

- ✓ The University shall maintain a benchmarking database to store all past benchmarkings.
- ✓ The project team will prepare a list of required points to be benchmarked with the partner.
- ✓ A formal request, authorized by the Dean, shall be sent to the partner institute.
- ✓ All information received shall be recorded in the database.
- ✓ A report is prepared with key improvement areas identified and plan of action.
- ✓ This report needs to be shared with the QAAC and the University.
- ✓ All improvement actions and any resultant outcomes should be reported in regular performance reports.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

((If we knew what we were doing it wouldn't be research))

Albert Einstein

Happy Reading

