

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 51st issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.

In this issue, I will be addressing the subject of university rankings in international league tables.



There are many types of universities' rankings including the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), the QS World University Rankings, the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings, U-Multirank, and Webometrics Ranking of World Universities.

The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) was first published in June 2003 by Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China, and is updated on an annual basis. ARWU uses six objective indicators to rank world universities: number of alumni and staff winning Nobel Prizes and other prestigious awards, number of highly cited researchers selected by Thomson Reuters, number of articles published in journals of Nature and Science, number of articles indexed in Science Citation Index, number of articles indexed in Social Sciences Citation Index, and Per capita performance of a university.

Another important ranking is the **QS World University Rankings**, which has been developed to help students make informed decisions of leading universities around the world. The rankings are designed to assess universities in four areas: research, teaching, employability and internationalisation, and are based on 6 performance indicators: academic reputation (40%), employer reputation (10%), student-to-faculty ratio (20%), citations per faculty (20%), International faculty ratio (5%), and International student ratio (5%). The weightings are tailored when regional rankings are done like in the Arab Region ranking.



The Times Higher Education World University Rankings is another type of ranking which list the best global universities and the only international university performance

tables to judge world class universities across all of their core areas - teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

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U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings is based on 10 indicators that measure universities' academic research performance and their global and regional reputations.

U-Multirank is a new multi-dimensional, user-driven approach to international ranking of higher education institutions. The dimensions it includes are teaching and learning, research, knowledge transfer, international orientation and regional engagement.

Webometrics Ranking of World Universities is a ranking system for the world's universities based on a composite indicator that takes into account both the volume of the web contents (number of web pages and files) and the visibility and impact of these web publications. The aim of the ranking is to improve the presence of the academic and research institutions on the web and to promote the open access publication of scientific results. The ranking started in 2004 and is updated every January and July. Today it provides web indicators for more than 12,000 universities worldwide.

The QS has just released their ranking of Universities in the Arab region using a methodology based on the QS international ranking but customized for the local context. Please look at the attached link for the ranking:

<https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/arab-region-university-rankings/2018>

This particular ranking is based around Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, Faculty/Student Ratio, International Faculty, International Students, Faculty Staff with PhD, Web Impact, Papers per Faculty, and Citations per Paper.

First published in 2014, the **annual QS Arab Region University Rankings** highlights 100 leading universities in this part of the world. The methodology for this ranking has been developed with the aim of reflecting specific challenges and priorities for institutions in the region, drawing on the following nine indicators. The percentages indicate the weighting given to each component when calculating the overall results.



Academic reputation counts for (30%) and is based on a major global survey of academics, who are asked to name the universities they believe to be producing the best work in their own field of expertise. Like the employer survey (below), this is a major component across all of the QS university rankings. Employer reputation counts for (20%) and is based on a second major global survey, this time of graduate employers. Participants are asked to name the institutions they perceive to be producing the best graduates. Faculty/student ratio counts for (20%) and in the absence of an international standard by which to assess teaching quality, this indicator assesses the number of full-time academics employed relative to students enrolled. The aim is to give an indication of institutions' capability in terms of providing academic support. Web impact counts for (10%) and is based on the Webometrics ranking, this indicator reflects universities' online presence, providing an indication of their commitment to international engagement and communication. Proportion of staff with a PhD counts for (5%) and is based on the proportion of faculty members holding a PhD or equivalent, reflecting the overall level of expertise and experience within the institution. Citations per paper counts for (5%) and calculated using data from Scopus, this indicator assesses the number of citations per paper published, reflecting the impact of each institution's research. Papers per faculty counts for (5%) and is based on the Scopus database, this measure relates to the number of papers published per faculty member, reflecting research productivity rates. Finally, the proportion of international faculty, which counts for (2.5%) and proportion of international students, which counts for (2.5%) reflect each institution's success in attracting academics and students from other countries, giving an indication of the international diversity of its learning environment.

The overall results of the QS Arab Region University Rankings are published in an interactive online table, which allows users to compare universities' performance on individual indicators, or view those with the highest combined scores.

It is important for us to feature in the QS Arab Region Ranking and to do this, it is important to perform well in all the above indicators. It is also important to have strong presence in their conferences and events. The first step is to apply for star ratings to find out about where we are. I will be asking the 2VPs and Dean of Research and Graduate Studies to work closely with our Acting Director of International Partnerships and HR and Admissions and Registration to explore an application for the stars rating of the QS.

The Dean of Research and Graduate Studies has already started encouraging colleagues to create profiles in research-gate and Google Scholar in order to raise the number of our citations. It is highly encouraged that colleagues should publish their papers in Scopus and ISI indexed journals if appropriate as most universities rankings depend on publications in these types of journals.

QUALIFICATION PLACEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

The Education and Training Quality Authority in Bahrain organised a Qualification Placement Capacity Building workshop on Wednesday, 11 October 2017.



The workshop is an important event for the University in view of our preparations for the placement of the two qualifications, Bachelor in Business Administration and Bachelor in Law early next year. The workshop was attended by Dr Assem Al-Hajj, VP for Academic Affairs and Development, Dr Ahmed Arbab, Acting Vice Dean for the College of Administrative Sciences, Dr Khairi Omar, Acting HoD for the Department of Business Administration, Dr Qais Maaitah, Academic staff from the College of Law, Dr Mohammed Aghbari and Dr Roy Tumaneng from QAAC. The workshop was very useful and gave us insight into many issues including the Qualification Placement Process for mapping and confirmation, and preparation of the application form.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Noel Lavin

Position: Acting Director of Foundation and English Delivery Services

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

I was born and raised in Ireland. I have two fantastic brothers & sisters (I'm the second eldest) and, I would say, the greatest mother in the world. We lived in a rural setting in the West of Ireland. I had a wonderful childhood spending most of my time outside playing and exploring.

I have a BA in English, an MA in English and I'm about midway through my second Masters (Education & Leadership) with the University of Ulster (UK).

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I'm new to the university this year. As the Acting Director of Foundation and English Delivery Services I'm really busy with the UK programmes.

ISO 9001:2015 TRAINING WORKSHOP

On Thursday, 19 October 2017, the members of the ISO Quality Management Committee received a training on the standard ISO 9001:2015 at the Training Center of the University.



The training was delivered by the Head of the Internal Audit Unit and chair of the aforementioned committee, Mr. Hatem Dammak.



The training aimed to explain the core concepts of the standard, namely the process approach based on the PDCA

Cycle (Plan – Do – Check – Act) and the risk-based thinking, in addition to a detailed presentation of the 7 auditable areas (clauses) that any institution needs to meet in order to get the ISO 9001:2015 certification:

1. **Context of the Organization:** the institution must be able to clearly define its context including its internal and external issues, understand the needs and expectations of its stakeholders, determine the scope of its quality management system along with its processes.
2. **Leadership:** the institution must be able to demonstrate the strong commitment of its top management to the establishment and maintenance of an efficient quality management system.
3. **Planning:** the institution must be able to demonstrate that it always start with planning before execution, taking into consideration the risks and opportunities inherent to its activities and surrounding environment.
4. **Support:** the institution must provide the necessary resources that support the implementation of its plan and the achievement of its goals.
5. **Operations:** the institution must be able that it is conducting its operations as per planned and while taking into consideration the various requirements of the various interested parties (customers, legislators, stakeholders, etc.).

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

I want to see the university continue to build its strong reputation, gain full institutional accreditation and become one of the top ranked universities in the region. I also want to see each and every one of our students achieve their educational dreams and graduate from the university instilled with the desire to be lifelong learners.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I really enjoy being in an environment where people want to learn. I also like spending time with our students and like the fact that I'm also learning every day.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

Well, I'm a real bookworm, so I love reading. I also like sports, particularly running. I've completed a marathon and many half-marathons. I'm also passionate about learning, so you'll often find me watching Ted Talks (ideas worth spreading) or anything that provides facts or explanations about how things work. I love making furniture too!

6. Tell us about your favourite food

Easy! One word – Pizza.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

The Book Thief by Australian author Markus Zusak

8. Final words

I'm delighted to be part of the team at ASU and look forward to building strong professional relationships with everyone.

6. Performance evaluation: the institution must demonstrate its ability to constantly monitor and evaluate its overall performance and the performance of its different units and departments.
7. Improvement: the crowning feat of all the previous clauses is the ultimate goal of any quality management system, and that is continuous improvement in order to meet and exceed customer's expectations.

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018

The Deanship of Student Affairs organised the Student Council elections for its 11th cycle from 16-18 October 2017. The election campaign was held over two days - Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 October 2017, 24 nominated students were enthusiastic to show their goals and commitment towards other students. Each student was given a table at the lobby or at the Admissions and Registration area with the opportunities to present his/ her views in helping their fellow students. Tours were carried out by Professor Ghassan Aouad the President of the University; Dr Assem Al-Hajj, the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Development, Dr Faiza Zitouni, Dean of Student Affairs, and all College Deans to show their support for such an important event.



On the day of the elections, 1133 the students headed towards the Dome Hall to vote for their College candidates. The results were announced in Abdulla Nass Auditorium by the Deanship of Student Affairs; 8 seats went to the College of Administrative Sciences, 4 seats to the College of Law and 3 seats to the College of Arts and Science. On the same occasion, the Student Council for its 10th cycle were honoured for their great and hard work during their cycle year.

On Thursday 19 October 2017, the Deanship of Student Affairs conducted a meeting with the newly elected Student Council to select their constitutional members namely the Student Council President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.



24 Students nominated for the election



The Student Council Organizational Chart for its 11th Cycle (2017-2018)



REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Graduation Ceremony 25 October

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it."

Benjamin Franklin
Happy Reading

