

PSU

STRATEGIC PLAN 03

PROGRESS REPORT
2020-2021

جامعة الامير سلطان
PRINCE SULTAN
UNIVERSITY







Vision

Prince Sultan University aspires to become the leading nonprofit, private university in the Middle East region, providing a quality education equal to other reputable universities in the world

Mission

Prince Sultan University aims to provide the Middle East with quality education to the highest international standards. In its efforts towards successful and responsible life-long learning, PSU integrates modern technology, pedagogy and human values for the advancement of scientific research, productivity and leadership towards a more meaningful role in society. PSU is committed to the effective management of institutional resources to optimize its multiple roles as a catalyst for new learning opportunities, national and international partnerships, continuous studies, professional growth, community service and diversity in educational horizons for the good of humanity.

Values

Proactive
(Academic and personal integrity; effective management operations; lifelong learning among students, faculty and the large community; respect for individual in the community)

Service
(high quality service and efficiency; positive intrapersonal relationship among members of the community)

Upbeat
(academic environment that nurtures excellent in learning, teaching and research; professional development and personal growth among members of the community)





President's word

Throughout PSU transformative experience with the new normal, the PSU community managed to adapt to the current situation in a record amount of time and reinforced key elements of the PSU mission statement, which is the importance of using technology, being a catalyst for a new learning opportunity, professional growth, and the advancement of scientific research. PSU's mission statement is a tool that guides us to be agile and resilient.

PSU proved to be an agile university, as the PSU community has proved to be resilient based on its outstanding performance to date, which as a result brought back life to PSU by welcoming our students to in-person classes and at the same time fulfilling all Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health guidelines for safety.

PSU has the honor and takes pride in being the institution to first open the door to private higher education and is the leading nonprofit private university in the Kingdom. Furthermore, PSU is determined more than ever to continue its successful journey in terms of the seven themes of its third strategic plan, which are supported by 21 goals, 51 objectives, and 250 specific actions. We are now in the third year of the Strategic Plan as PSU is enjoying its third decade of success.

In spite of the pandemic, today we have executed over 60% of the plan, to continue empowering PSU to be a model of excellence in private higher education as we progress in opening the doors to new learning opportunities through recruiting outstanding online faculty members from renowned international university such as Harvard, MIT, and Cambridge using PSU's current four hybrid classrooms and hybrid main auditorium which are used to connect PSU to international faculty and events around the world. In harmony with PSU's Education Excellence theme, recently CBA embarked on the process for both Business & Accounting AACSB accreditations and proudly merited the full accreditations for both the business and accounting programs. This accomplishment makes PSU the only university in the Kingdom to achieve twin full accreditations.

In showcasing PSU's adroitness in the use of modern technology, PSU faculty, students, and staff made the most of the online opportunities through adapting to electronic modes of study. Virtual offerings online competitions and outreach programs, such as the PSU Coursera Initiative was initiated in the second semester of 2020, with nearly 1,430 PSU faculty and students taking 5,329 E-learning courses during the Pandemic. Coursera allows for faculty and students to be independent learners and engage in lifelong learning. The initiative was a total success at PSU's six colleges with 400 students completing courses and receiving certificates covering various skill domains such as business, data science, and computer studies. PSU is in the process of launching a deanship for a digital transformation, which intends to transform PSU to the digital world.

As PSU's third strategic plan is putting more emphasis on research, PSU has increasingly given research unprecedented attention and focus. Thus we are continuing to empower our Research & Initiative Center (RIC) with research professors, postdocs, and Ph.D. students to improve the research quality. The university provides a unique research environment with several facilities and resources. It adopts a decentralized strategy for research governance by giving colleges their financial independence and decision-making about conference attendance, project proposals evaluation, and research labs. This change from a centralized to a decentralized management structure has radically improved research productivity and increased the motivation of researchers.

Today, RIC not only represents an administrative entity, but also represents a research hub at the university that provides faculty members and researchers with resources in the shape of hardware and software, mentorship, awareness, capacity-building workshops, technical support, and guidance.

Considering the importance of teamwork and the need for research entities that gather researchers with similar research interests, PSU established 15 multi-

disciplinary core research labs and groups led by experts in their fields. These labs have state-of-the-art facilities and resources that span over the six colleges of the university.

As a result, the research outcomes have significantly boosted in the last two years with publication productivity 5 times higher than what it was 2 years ago. Furthermore, the research impact at PSU increased dramatically and includes several international awards for PSU researchers, creating startups stemming from PSU research generating funds and revenues from industry, and the organization of international conferences to name a few.

This has culminated in PSU becoming home to renowned research scholars. According to a recent study conducted by Stanford, five of PSU's Computer Science researchers are in the top 2% in the world.

In closing, I would like to take this great opportunity and express our sincere thanks and appreciation to recognize the hard-working Institutional Strategic Planning Steering Committee and related subcommittees for each strategic theme for their relentless work on PSU 3rd Strategic Plan, which is supervised and guided by the Deanship of DQAD dean and SPDC director.

With the commitment, full participation, and dedication of the PSU community, we will continue to implement our strategic plan as an agile and resilient university and continue to deliver quality programs and quality graduates.

Dr. Ahmed Yamani



Preface

The ambition of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shows no boundaries nor limitations. In mirroring the grand vision of the Kingdom, PSU continues to excel in the areas of education and research in KSA through the implementation of its strategic plan.

Year three of our plan has seen us flourish in spite of the pandemic. Our students, faculty, and staff made the most of the online opportunities that presented themselves by adapting to electronic modes of study, business, and communication. Virtual offerings such as the Model United Nations, online competitions and outreach programs, and a number of Coursera courses with over 400 participants were conducted.

Away from the classroom, the College of Business Administration achieved AACSB accreditation and PSU was ranked in the Times Higher Education Impact rankings for the first time. Undergraduate intake increased by 11% year on year, 30 new full-time researchers were hired and numerous partnership agreements were concluded, including with GACA, SABIC, and the G20.

The Strategic Planning and Development Center (SPDC) would like to thank the Institutional Strategic Planning Higher Committee and the Institutional Strategic Planning Steering Committee, in particular to the chairs: Dr. Alia Mitchel, Mr. Reda Aloufi, Mr. Shabir Khahro, Dr. Fahdah Althonayan, Ms. Hafsah Elekrish, Dr. Mohammed Nurunnabi, Dr. Anis Kouba, and also Ms. Muneerah Aldubaiban. We also extend our appreciation to the Deanship of Quality Assurance and Development, and the Public Relations and Media Center.

Maruf Rahman

Director, SPDC

Masha'al Alrasheed

Associate Director, SPDC

Mamdouh Alenezi

Dean, DQAD



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THEME 01 EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Introduction

As an educational institution, PSU is committed to excellence in education and high standard teaching and learning that encourages intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, acquisition of technical skills, and commitment to lifelong learning. The institution is committed to investing in excellence to allow students to attain personal and professional growth and prepare them to meet the employment demands in both the public and private sectors. More importantly, PSU aims to become a center of excellence with distinctive national and international recognition of students and graduates who will become leaders in their chosen field. PSU's commitment can be seen from its initiatives aligned with the Saudi Vision 2030 and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) both of which have been incorporated into the 3rd strategic plan themes.

Congratulations go out to all of our stakeholders within the institution: faculty and administrative staff members for supporting the educational excellence achievement of our students. It is wonderful to see our students pursuing their life's goals, their commitment to excel, even now—in the face of overcoming the challenging circumstances from the Pandemic. It is truly inspirational to see their success and motivation for their PSU family.

The Pandemic's Impact

During the pandemic education was continued; however, higher education institutions had to adapt and become more flexible in their approaches to education whether online or face-2-face. Presently, we have moved the majority of courses back to F2F with only a few remaining online.

Faculty Recruitment, Qualifications, and Recognizing Excellence

PSU's reputation, excellence, and overall strength enable it to recruit and retain highly qualified faculty members. PSU prioritizes the recruitment of highly-experienced Ph.D. holders in its colleges. The majority of the MA holders are recruited for the PYP (Preparatory Year Program). To maintain and ensure the quality of teaching and learning within all academic programs, PSU revises and updates the policies and guidelines for Teaching and Learning on a regular basis. The high retention rate also indicates the overall engagement and satisfaction of faculty members. This is reflected in the students' satisfaction with the quality of their courses. Faculty are recognized via different awards like the TLC's President's Distinguished Teaching Award, RIC's Outstanding Research Award, Moodle Awards, and the Jubilation Center established in 2020-2021 also recognizes faculty for any outstanding achievements like promotions.

Support of Students and Extracurricular/Co-curricular Activities

PSU is known for its excellence in providing support and opportunities for its students to grow as individuals and expand their life-long learning skills. The Academic Advising Center expanded its operations to the men's campus during 2020-2021 and has been successful at raising awareness of the importance of advising across the university. The Deanship of Student Affairs along with the Student Council organized several different initiatives and events (DSA) to recruit highly qualified high school students. For example, Masar Program, which is the first of its kind in Riyadh is conducted in Prince Sultan University with the primary aim of educating high school students on the potential majors that they can pursue. The university has approximately 50 student clubs. The Student Council has had an active voice in support of the student body and has had 4 new awards approved.

Advancement in Academia

PSU's reputation stems from the high-quality curricula that are offered by the different Colleges. The aim of the curricula expects nothing but excellent performance for those who graduate from PSU in order to support the societal need of KSA

Concluding Words

Overall, PSU's efforts to support students' opportunities for learning and growth as members of society can be seen as we shifted to online and back to face-2-face classes. Providing opportunities for extracurricular as well co-curricular activities has been paramount during 2021 as we have adjusted to the "new normal." Our pride in our students and faculty members has remained constant during this time of a paradigm shift in higher education.

THEME 01 EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Accomplishments

Goal 1: Enhance the quality of faculty in strategically important academic areas

- Merging of CH and DES to form the new College of Humanities and Sciences
- Increase in the number of PhD holders throughout all colleges
- Reduction of the turnover rate
- Raising awareness of the promotion process among faculty members with a resulting increase in the number of promotions across the colleges

Merging of CH and DES to form the new College of Humanities and Sciences



Increase in the number of PhD holders throughout all colleges



Goal 2: Promote educational excellence

- Became the first university in the Middle East to be recognized as an ACA Training Employer by ICAEW, UK
- Facilitated flexible COOP opportunities, including online work placements
- Updated the Assessment of Learning Outcomes Handbook
- Enhanced faculty mentorship for online education to facilitate the teaching and learning experience
- Conducted online classroom observations due to the pandemic
- Expanded international collaboration opportunities for students by partnering with National Chengchi University and University of Alberta
- Participated in virtual educational exhibitions with Education First



New COOP firms



Goal 3: Develop a wider variety of learning strategies and tools for students

- Establishment of the EduHub platform to support teaching and learning
- The pilot of Coursera in support of online education



1430 Students &
faculty taking 5329
online courses

Goal 4: Expand student participation in extracurricular and cocurricular activities

- Extracurricular activities being conducted online (e.g. club fair was conducted online)
- Translation Competition conducted online at PSU
- Student orientation was conducted online
- Approval of the proposal for a Student Council's student awards



THEME 02 MANAGEMENT, GOVERNANCE, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Introduction

PSU's higher management is committed to providing the Middle East with a quality education to the highest international standards. This is clearly expressed in the PSU Mission and Theme 2 of PSU's 5-year strategic plan. Theme 2 has 3 goals and 8 objectives and we have accomplished 62% of its overall goals.

Accreditation

Goal 1 has 2 objectives and we have accomplished 61% by the end of the academic year 2020-2021. To demonstrate PSU's quality education, PSU has prioritized in its strategic plan, attaining and maintaining national & international accreditation that gives its governance confidence and accountability. In this regard, PSU sustains alignment to national and international quality standards of higher education, which has been validated by 11 national and 4 international program accreditations. The College of Engineering gets program accreditation for its five programs from the NCAAA. Besides, PSU obtained international accreditation from the American Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) for the Computer Science (CS) and Information Systems (IS) programs and is currently preparing for the SE program to obtain accreditation by 2022. Also, the College of Business Administration (CBA) became accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) for all CBA programs.

Reinforcing Quality

Goal 2 has 4 objectives and we have accomplished 62% by the end of the academic year 2020-2021. PSU has taken several initiatives to strengthen the internal quality management system at the institutional level that aligns with the updated National Qualification Framework-KSA. Development of college-level strategic plans, updating policies and procedures to be more up to the standards, participation in the Time Higher Education Impact Ranking based on SDGs 2030, and improvement in quality of documentation using auditing procedures are the main key accomplishments of Goal 2.

Accessibility to Key Data

Goal 3 has 3 objectives and we have accomplished 73% by the end of the academic year 2020-2021. For this strategic goal, PSU emphasized capitalizing upon internal and external benchmarking data to guide decision-making at various academic and administrative levels. The benchmarking partner agreements have increased in number which resulted in signing memos of understanding with 5 different universities. The key information through PowerBi Dashboards has been updated and upgraded to enable leaders to visualize key data such as student enrollment, cohort, faculty, research, and survey results. This notably includes the Program dashboard for the graduate and undergraduate programs and the Program KPI dashboards. The KPI Framework has been further refined by revising the PSU and NCAAA KPI definitions and preparing KPI cards for each of them.



THEME 02 MANAGEMENT, GOVERNANCE, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Accomplishments

Goal 1: Sustain PSU alignment to national and international quality standards of higher education

- Obtained the AACSB accreditation for the Business programs of the College of Business Accreditation (CBA)
- Obtained the NCAAA accreditation for the College of Engineering programs
- Submitted the Readiness Review Report to ABET for the Software Engineering (SE) program of the College of Computer and Information Sciences (CCIS)
- Conducted virtual visit for the Business and Accounting programs AACSB accreditation from June 14-17, 2021
- Conducted workshops for the different Institutional Committees on how to use the new NCAAA Self-Evaluation Scales for the Institution (SESI) and how to use MS Teams in preparation for the Institutional Re-Accreditation in 2023-2024
- Prepared SESI and presented the results to the Institutional Executive Quality Committee (IEQC) with corresponding action plans based on

the priorities for improvement identified by the different Institutional Committees

- Submitted Interim Reports (Institution and Programs) to the NCAAA
- Submitted the letter of application for initial accreditation on July 20, 2020, for the Accounting program to the Accounting Accreditation Committee (AAC) and on September 17, 2020, for Business programs to the Initial Accreditation Committee (IAC) of the AACSB
- Updated the CBA Strategic Plan; Confirmed the virtual visit and Identified the two Peer Review Teams (PRTs) by the AACSB, and Submitted the final Self-Evaluation Reports (SER) for Business and Accounting programs to the IAC and AAC
- Prepared for the live campus tour [Broadcast style coverage]. and the pre-recorded video presentations, and 360-degree videos) for the Business and Accounting programs for the virtual visit
- Finalized the physical and digital base rooms
- Conducted a series of orientations for PSU participants



Goal 2: Enhance quality culture and governance

- PSU participated and was ranked for the first time in the Time Higher Education Impact Ranking, which is solely based on SDGs 2030
- Establishing Rubrics for Program Specification, Course Specification Program Report, and Course Reports for evaluating the quality of the program and course documents
- The programs which have not received accreditation (AVM and SE) and are applying for re-accreditation (LAW, AL, TRANS) have gone through the internal assessment process to check their eligibility for seeking accreditation or re-accreditation
- Every Program leader had been asked to verify student achievement in the major or final exams by an independent reviewer. The reports have been submitted to the QAC
- Approval was granted for preparing and publishing Quality Manual. In this regard, a workforce committee was created which prepared the template and the process for preparing the content with respect to the services provided by the supporting units

- Establishing guidelines for the program CORE courses taught by other departments
- Alignment of PSU-Quality Framework with the Update National Qualification Framework adopted in Saudi Arabia
- All colleges have drafted their 5-year strategic plan in alignment with PSU's institutional plan
- The Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM) has been reviewed and enhanced and a portal has been created for PSU policies which will help PSU faculty, students, and administrative staff view and search for it
- Automated more than 20 operational processes for continuous improvement
- Updated and Published the Program Assessment Handbook
- Prepared detailed guidelines for the ETEC-NCAAA Program and Course Documents



- Computer Science
- Information Systems



Both CS & IS accredited with no deficiencies, weakness, or concerns were found



Achieved international Accreditation from AACSB for the CBA business programs such as Accounting, AVM, Finance and MBA programs



- Received NCAAA accreditation for 5 CE Programs
- Architectural Engineering
- Communications and Networks
- Engineering
- Construction Management
- Interior Design
- Production and Manufacturing Management



- Applied Linguistics
- Translation



- Law

Goal 3: Capitalize on benchmarking data to guide decision making

- KPI framework has been approved to collect data, organize, visualize the aggregate program-related data, and share it with the relevant academic and administrative units
- Dashboards have been updated and upgraded to enable leaders to visualize key data, including information about student enrollment, cohort, faculty, research, and survey results
- Benchmarking partner agreement signed with 5 different universities 3 national, 1 Regional, and 1 international university



THEME 03 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

At Prince Sultan University, we have been developing our professional development scheme that allows for professional learning, educators gaining new knowledge, skills, and ideas to meet students' learning needs best. PSU faculty, admin, and students are engaged in continuous improvement via their professional learning experiences. Professional development could be a conference, a workshop, a lecture, mentoring, professional association activity, community service involvement, consultations, and peer review. It is highly encouraged for faculty members, admin, and students to have exposure to multiple types of activities for their professional development and growth. PSU always supports the ideas and programs to better the professional development activities within the campus and external ventures. The professional development strategic plan at PSU is aligned with the "Saudi Vision 2030" and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.0, which is "Quality Education" of United Nations Vision 2030.

Workshops and Training

The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) offers faculty members numerous workshops and training sessions geared towards providing faculty members with ample professional development opportunities. The Research and Initiatives Center (RIC) also offers workshops and training sessions that aim at fostering a research culture at PSU. The E-Learning Center (ELC) offers regular training

sessions and workshops to support faculty members in their use of MOODLE and other available technologies at PSU. Similarly, each college, unit, and laboratory at PSU also organizes numerous professional development activities for faculty, students and staff.

Certification Programs

The TLC runs the Certificate of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Program, which can lead to fellowship recognition from ADVANCE HE (HEA) of the UK, which aims to provide faculty members with a practical and theoretical grounding in teaching and learning in higher education. During the challenging COVID-19 situation, PSU showed resilience to ensure the quality of teaching and learning in PSU. The ELC and TLC organized various workshops to assist the faculty members with E-teaching methods and supporting tools, alternate assessments, designing assessments using LMS, and various other software. PSU faculty, staff, and students have participated in various national and international events to enhance their learning and skills.

Upskilling

Professional Development opportunities are an integral part of the university strategies for providing educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to enable students to succeed in a well-rounded education and meet challenging academic standards and the current job market demands.



THEME 03 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Accomplishments

Goal 1: Provide a variety of professional development opportunities for faculty and staff

- Conducted numerous PD activities to strengthen faculty, students, and admin's professional capabilities and skill. PSU faculty participates in an average number of 2500 and more professional development activities yearly
- Various workshops are also conducted during the academic year to support students with learning difficulties, skill achievement, and moral uplift. A total of 3785 professional development activities were attended by PSU faculty over the course of AY2020-2021
- An automated system is specially designed at PSU to record and monitor the professional development activities
- More than 150 in campus PD activities were organized in PSU
- First time online faculty orientation was conducted for new faculty members in PSU

AdvanceHE



3785 Professional Development Activities



Goal 2: Provide professional development opportunities for academic and administrative leaders

- More than 197 faculty members on campus have national and international professional memberships
- Creation of Jubilation Office to appreciate and publicize faculty and staff accomplishments
- Initiated the Best Admin Award for PSU staff to acknowledge the hard work and dedication
- Initiated the Course Design Institute (CDI) for new academic leaders
- Established the first online faculty resources site



197 faculty members on campus have national and international professional memberships.



Memberships



Association for Computing Machinery



THEME 04 OUTREACH, MARKETING, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Introduction

Prince Sultan University has proved itself a leader with regards to its community service contribution. Acting as a great source of inspiration to the general community, PSU strives for and is determined to continue inhabiting that great role as it continues its progression on the 3rd run of its 7-theme Strategic Plan [SP3]. A plan through which a wealth of innovative goals and ideas have been crafted and set to support, improve, and encourage education, research, and innovation. SP3's fourth theme [T4] is titled "Outreach, Marketing, and Partnerships", and through it, many goals and objectives were met in the AY of 2020-2021.

The Community

It is no secret that the PSU community is the university's beating heart, so it's no surprise that the first goal under theme 4 is focused on supporting development, increasing ties with third partners to raise financial support, and expanding the depth and breadth of community services. In AY 2020-2021 this was met in numerous ways, such as the introduction of awards and salutations rewarding PSU faculty and students' contributions in community service, providing learning opportunities courtesy of CSCEC, granting scholarships, partnering with organizations, holding conferences, and setting up educational competitions in multiple fields of study.

Image and Presence

The second goal in support of Theme 4 [T4] is where PSU shares who it is and what it has done with the world. In support of the national and international promotion of Prince Sultan University, a website was launched, and through it the new identity of PSU has been introduced and showcased. Furthermore, social media channels are active and feature the new identity of PSU. Also on the list of achievements is PSU's cascade of a mix of national & international events and exhibitions, an increase in partnerships with a variety of schools from around the world, virtual visits from scholars, the rise of PSU faculty research and labs, and the development of call centers and digital portals.

Partnerships

Collaboration is key for success, which is why the third goal under theme 4 of the strategic plan is to establish and advance PSU's partnerships with stakeholders. A great deal of positive progress in this regard has been achieved. Accomplishments include great employment rates for PSU alumni, developing mechanisms for the process of review and approval of MoUs, signing multiple MoUs with a variety of organizations, conducting workshops, and establishing and preserving consistent communication with alumni.



THEME 04 OUTREACH, MARKETING, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Accomplishments

- **Goal 1: Develop and improve PSU's community service and education programs and initiatives**
- Completed the Community Service Database
- Activation of the Institutional Community & Partnership Committee (ICPC) assisted greatly in reaching colleges on both campuses institutionally
- Published PSU Faculty & Student projects on all PSU Media channels
- Successful Collaborations with governmental institution (confidential), Albir Charity, Ministry of Labor & Social Development, and King Saud University
- MUN, MISK Foundation, among others
- PSU collaborated with the United Nations Office of Development on "COVID-19's Impact on Saudi Arabia's economy & the kingdom's efforts in working against the pandemic"
- Attracted a new sponsor who has provided 3 scholarships so far



• Goal 2: Promote PSU nationally and internationally

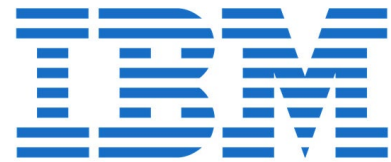
- Participated in G20, International Collaborations, and Hult Prize
- Participated in exhibits held at schools such as Kingdom & Al Namouthajiyah Schools
- CSCEC was involved in two main events nationally & internationally:
 - 1) Ministry of Communication & Information Technology (MICT)'s Virtual Career Fair
 - 2) Monsha'at's continuous launch of Elite Program cohorts



- GSU Bylaws, Bulletin, Program Flyers, and Social Media Announcements are utilized in support of PSU's Image and promotion
- New Identity has been established & presented through updated website and Taif Al Jameaa
- Call Center Operators have been hired
- 3 International Speakers have been invited to speak at PSU
- Groups were created on various Social Media platforms in an effort to reach more students
- Designated websites and social media channels were created for several university faculties, labs, initiatives
- Increased the number of PSU's international higher education institutions [HEI] partners: Politecnico di Milano (IT) and Durham University (UK)

- **Goal 3: Optimize PSU's role in national and international partnerships with stakeholders**

- Job opportunities were provided to our Alumni by 33 companies
- Consistent day to day communication with alumni regarding available job opportunities
- Workshops have been conducted in support of PSU's alumni
- Several companies have been visited in an effort to preserve and enhance existing partnerships
- The College of Law has signed several MoUs with industry leaders
- There is a set of active MoUs with SAP, IBM, Oracle, Microsoft, Palo Alto, and VMware
- More than TWO members of the alumni have agreed to participate in the IS advisory board



Strategic Intelligence



**GLOBAL
EDUCATION
POLICY
NETWORK**



THEME 05 WIDE-RANGING TECHNOLOGIES AND EXPANDING RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

Introduction

As one of the leading private universities in the country, PSU aims to create an outstanding learning environment and a great campus experience for its students as well as its faculty and staff. Different centers and departments collaborate continuously to achieve this through the implementation of different projects and initiatives related to physical facilities and educational resources.

Coping with the Pandemic

In a year like no other, PSU successfully shifted to online learning overnight with minimum resources in response to the pandemic last year. Throughout the 2019-2020 academic year, a comprehensive approach was implemented through the establishment of the EduHUB online educational platform and several IT infrastructure upgrades.

In the 20-21 academic year, PSU decided to offer the majority of its courses online with the exception of a few practical courses that were scheduled on campus. In addition, all exams were expected to take place on campus. With that, all concerned centers and departments worked hand in hand to ensure the safety of PSU members as they “return with caution.”

The Security Department created checkpoints at every entrance to enforce the government’s regulations on campus and conducted a COVID-19 campaign

targeting the whole PSU community.

The General Services and Maintenance Department, in coordination with the Procurement Office, made sure all facilities were routinely disinfected throughout the day and were always supplied with the necessary personal protective equipment. Social distancing was also enforced inside and outside classrooms and examination halls.

Concerted efforts were also made by the Information Technology Center (ITC) and the E-Learning Center (ELC) to further support online learning as continuous technical support and training were provided to students and staff to make sure no one was left behind. Many staff members benefited from the Work from Home workspace, and remote access to several IT facilities was granted to faculty and students as they continued their classes from home. A new policy for conducting online exams was approved and executed by both centers. In addition, a new monitoring dashboard was developed to monitor the usage of online resources and the credibility of online examinations.

Development of Resources and Facilities

Although COVID had its impact on several campus projects, facility enhancements continued with another car parking expansion being planned and with starting the renovation of the Women’s Central Library in Building 101. Security and safety systems were also upgraded. The Network infrastructure in Building 101

was also upgraded resulting in faster network services in all facilities.

PSU has also continued its path toward becoming a paperless university by developing a number of automated services and has enhanced business processes by fully integrating PSU systems internally and with external governmental systems such as SADAD payment gateway and the Ministry of Education’s Jameah platform.

The library maintained its services and provided the necessary resources for new programs offered by the College of Architecture and Design. It has also continued to offer online orientation for PSU staff and students as well as a number of club activities in collaboration with academic instructors and the Student Affairs Office.



THEME 05 WIDE-RANGING TECHNOLOGIES AND EXPANDING RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

Goal 1: Implement innovative and effective technologies to advance academic performance

- Regulated computer-based exams
- Integrated and updated publisher plugins into Moodle LMS
- Established the e-learning dashboard to monitor the usage of online teaching facilities and platforms
- Provided remote access to 7 specialized labs (utilized by 11 courses with a total of 9 instructors and 224 students)

Goal 2: Provide high quality institutional resources and facilities

- Launched a Covid-19 awareness and compliance campaign
- Updated the alarm system in buildings 102 and 103
- Switching to LED lighting to rationalize electricity consumption
- Building 101 network infrastructure revamped with new speed reaching 10 GB
- Developed tools for monitoring different IT services and applications
- Local Governance Building 90% Completed & E4E Building 60% Completed
- More than 35 Electronic Services are available to PSU community
- Central Library 65% completed



Goal 3: Transform PSU infrastructure and application services

- Established web hosting services to the PSU community for their customized websites
- Campus Internet Services re-structured to support remote education and work
- Launched an enhanced version of the Faculty Portal with fully integrated features that include: faculty profile, research, professional development, and community service
- Automated the Institutional Board Review Application
- Integrated PSU's Student Information System and Enterprise Resource Planning systems with SADAD payment gateway and the Ministry of Education's Jameah platform
- Alliance with the National Cyber Security Authority and business partners to enhance security



Goal 4: Deliver quality library services to stakeholders

- The updated Library website is available in two languages (English and Arabic)
- Increased the exchange of learning materials with King Saud University, Princess Nourah University, and King Abdulaziz Public Library
- Cooperated with King Abdulaziz for Science and Technology in terms of innovation and technology



THEME 06 ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Introduction

“Financial performance is the key measurement to understanding economic sustainability and contributes for strategic investment to optimize the achievement of PSU mission”

PSU established an effective financial planning and management control system to sustain the programs and services offered and efficiently managed in keeping with program requirements and institutional priorities. The university also has an efficient budgetary and forecasting process, financial delegations, and accountability to ensure suppleness, institutional oversight, and risk management. Regarding this process, the university prepares the annual master budget, annual report, and interim report, and engages stakeholders including senior management, faculty members, and admin staff. PSU has a centralized approach for overseeing the overall budgeting and financial management control system. The economic sustainability of PSU is based upon Strategic Theme 6 of the PSU Strategic Plan.

Accomplishments

PSU is continuously maintaining its financial health indicating its capacity to take strategic initiatives and deploy resources effectively to achieve the overall mission of PSU.

Goal 1: Maintain and enhance overall financial strength

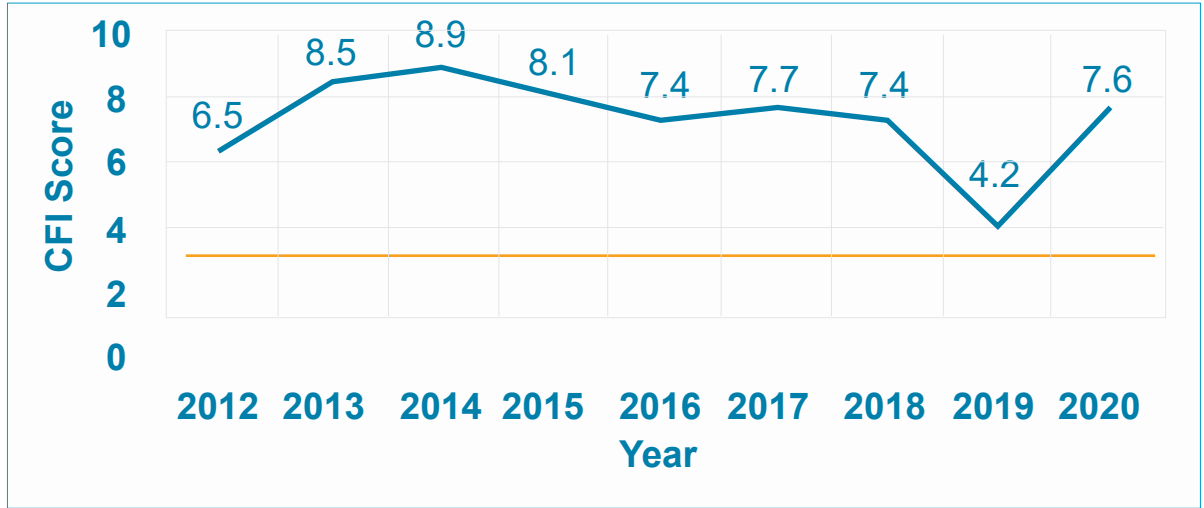
- Composite Financial Index (CFI) scores are continuously above 3 and improved significantly despite the onset of COVID-19 pandemic globally
- Financial Responsibility Composite Scores are continuously above 1.5 and also improved to the maximum level of 3

Goal 2: Maintain comprehensive and effective risk management, internal audit, and assurance framework

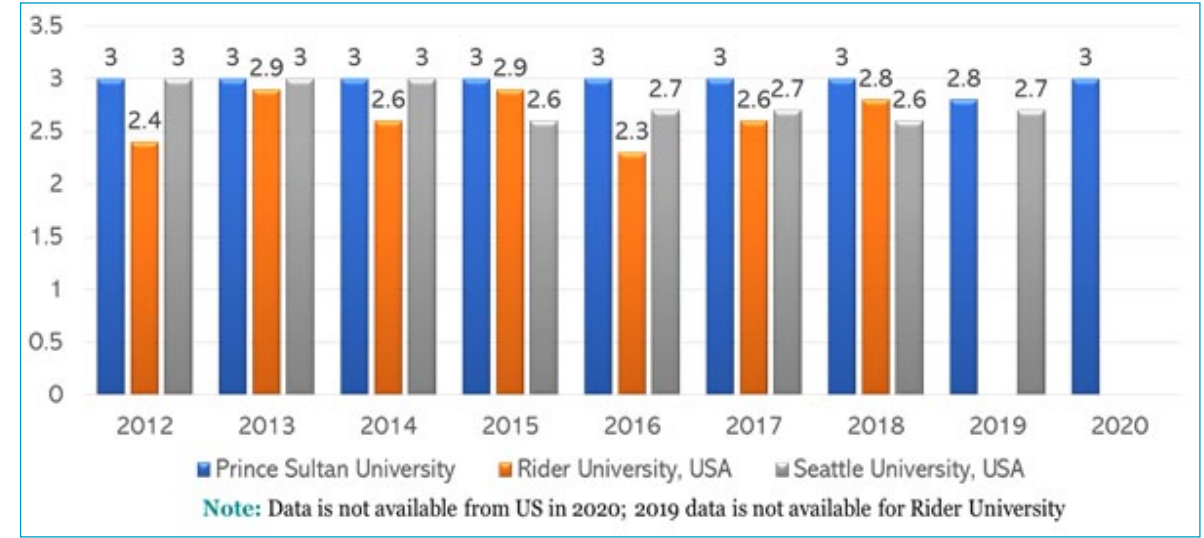
- Launched a revised Risk Management Plan (integrating crisis management framework due to COVID-19)
- Updated the Risk Management Software



Composite Financial Index (CFI) scores (2012 to 2020)



Financial Responsibility Composite Scores (FRCS) in 2019



THEME 07 RESEARCH AND INITIATIVES

Introduction

Research is considered one of the main pillars at Prince Sultan University because It can give an idea of how the university is ranked in the academic field locally and internationally. That is why we at Prince Sultan University focus on research to achieve a higher academic rank, which is also one of the main goals of the Saudi Vision 2030.

Infrastructure

In the last academic year (AY 2020-2021), several achievements in the field of research have been accomplished based on the PSU strategic plan. For the first goal, which is to “Establish an effective research infrastructure” a systematic process to assess the need for new research facilities and resources was completed and identified to all PSU Research Labs. The Lab Leaders can now apply for resources such as new equipment using a straightforward process. In addition, a well-structured approach to collecting the equipment in seed projects was implemented using Google technologies. In terms of sharing, shared space and equipment for PSU Staff have been provided, offering multiple helpful software, like SPSS and Grammarly and high-specification computers. There were also a number of collaborations between Research Labs and other Institutions to use their equipment, such as KSU and KACST.

Collaboration

As for the second goal, which is to “Play a larger role in the advancement of research”, effective improvement has been made through revising and completing most of the research bylaws. On the other hand, processes to evaluate research and researchers were completed too. Moreover, In terms of collaborations, many different MOUs were signed last year. Furthermore, students are now participating in research labs more than ever before. They also participated last year in the Undergraduate Research Forum that was held by the Research & Initiatives Center.

Labs and Grants

Lastly, for the third goal in the PSU Strategic Plan, which is to “Contribute to the socio-economic development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through research and Innovation”, more research labs were established last year. Also, external research grant opportunities have been attracted successfully by some of these research labs, with a total value of 3.7 Million Saudi Riyals.



THEME 07 RESEARCH AND INITIATIVES

Accomplishments

Goal 1: Establish an effective research infrastructure

- Increased journal publications to 772 Scopus Publications (from Jan 2021 to Oct 2021)
- Established 3 new research labs: Sustainable Architecture Lab, Electromagnetics Research Group and Smart Systems Engineering Lab, as an overall of 15 Research Labs

Scopus®



Smart Systems Engineering Lab



Goal 2: Play a larger role in the advancement of research

- Doubled the number of Scopus-indexed journal papers since 2018
- 7 patents applied; 3 granted for PSU and 4 published and still pending
- Attracted new highly-reputed research professors
- Increased the number of Full-Time Researchers to 30
- Involved students in research activities, including the Undergraduate Research Forum, co-authoring papers and participating in research labs
- Got International Awards: Stanford University Award and Abdul Hameed Shoman Arab Researchers Award



مؤسسة عبد الحميد شومان
ABDUL HAMEED SHOMAN FOUNDATION
البنك العربي - ARAB BANK



Goal 3: Contribute to the socioeconomic development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through research and Innovation

- 116 Papers have been published for The COVID19 Pandemic
- Funded 19 new seed projects for the year 2021
- Attracted external research grants with a total of 3.7 Million Saudi Riyals
- Signed an agreement with Riyadat Al-Adaa Company for Business Incubators and Accelerators (i-be)



116 Published papers



Research grant
3.7 million



