Chapter-3
A Brief Profile of Jordanian universities

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Chapter 3

3.1 Introduction

The analysis of the conceptual framework of human resource development and balance scorecard have been analyzed in detail in the chapter 1 and 2. Now, the higher education system, educational policies for higher education in Jordan and the universities which are covered in the present study are described with some important facts and information. These universities are of national importance.

The importance of university stems from the fact that it is responsible for preparing intellectual, scientific, literacy, artistic and professional leaderships at different levels and for all institutions of society and sectors. University is basically responsible for conducting researches and studies at all fields of life and domains of knowledge. University also has an important role in the field of public service in society by offering practical services to society on the part of teaching staff and students, utilizing its various facilities. The most prominent problems which face Jordanian society are: firstly, the continuous cultural and ideological modernization coming from the West and the Palestinians of conflict among three ideologies: Islamic, communist and capital. Secondly, the continuous scientific and technologies challenge coming from the west and the east and the needs of the Jordanian society for the different experiences and skills of advanced societies. In this way, the west and the east control the offering of advanced appliances and industries to Jordan according to certain conditions. Thirdly, the occurrence of social, economic and political problems resulting from the rapid progress accompanied by an imbalance between the values and aims imposed by the material progress and the host of values and aims polarized the interaction of the ideological heritage and society needs. Fourthly, the development of new intellectual and faith currents within Jordanian society, one of them tries to assert the identity of the Arab-Islamic society, and the other tries to borrow the western or eastern solutions resulting from the material progress.
Each of them has its philosophy which supports its positions and manner of treatment.

3.2 Policy of Higher Education in Jordan

The higher education in Jordan is being defined according to the law of higher education Act No 28 of the year 1985 as “the Education that is not less than one full Academic year after secondary stage”. And according to the same Act the institution of higher education is defined as the “institution which is conducting higher education in Jordan, including universities, higher institutes and the community’s colleges and institutes.”

3.3 Principles of Educational Policy in Jordan: The principles of Educational policy in Jordan are as follows: (www.jordanwatch.net)

- Guiding the educational system to be in much conformity with the needs of the individual and society and to reach balance between them.
- Providing opportunities to achieve the principles of sustainable education and to exploit the types of parallel education in coordination with authorized parties.
- Emphasizing the importance of political education in the educational system, consolidating and practicing the principles of participation justice and democracy.
- Guiding the educational process in a way that develops in the citizens’ personality the ability to analyze, criticize, initiate, create, and have positive dialogue and to reinforce the values originating from the Arab, Islamic and Humanitarian civilization.
- Firmly establishing the scientific approach of educational system in regard to planning, execution assessment and developing research, assessment and prosecution systems.
- Expanding the types of education in educational institutions to include the program of special education and talented students.
• Emphasizing the concept of comprehensive experience to include professional and technological experience.
• Emphasizing the fact that education is a mission and a profession which has its ethical and professional rules.
• Guiding the educational system in a way that insures the centralization of general planning and the de-centralization of management.
• Cherishing scientific and social position of the teacher and his/her distinctive role in building the human being and society. And
• Emphasizing the importance of military education and environmental culture.

3.4 The Means of Implementing the Policy of Higher Education: The ministry of higher education was established in 1985 to take up control of the educational, cultural, instructional and scientific policy of the government within the scale of the institutions of higher education. Its aims are achieved under the regulations of higher education 1985 through the following means: (www.fncfcs.com)

• Integrated scientific planning of higher education in the light of needs of society, including the planning for establishing the institutions of higher education and determining the type, level and degree of this education.
• Supporting the autonomy of universities through their council and departments and co-ordination between them in different fields.
• Direct supervision of non university education to prepare well trained human powers required for development plans and co-operation with other ministries, committees and institutions which have the same tasks.
• Providing human and technical potentials for the institutions of higher education to promote the level of scientific research expand its domains and co-ordination, with the co-operation of concerned institutions and committees.
• Holding agreements related to higher education and exchange of information with Arab and other countries, and representing Jordan in conferences and local and foreign meetings related to higher education.
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- Organizing the affairs of students, professors, researchers and scientific delegates coming to Jordan from other countries in co-operation with concerned parties.
- Organizing the work of the offices of student's services, supervising their affairs and evaluating their performance.
- Preparing studies and projects and offering initiatives in regard to what concerns higher education and its development in Jordan.

3.5 The Public Sector Universities in Jordan:

The Universities are primarily considered to be responsible for conducting research and studies in all areas of knowledge and also life. The universities play an important role in public service of the society. Successive Jordanian Governments have recommended the establishment of universities and work to develop and provide full support to them through directions and orientations of His Majesty the late King Hussain. Thus, the first university in Jordan was established in 1962 and then many public and private universities were established in the kingdom totaling 26 in the year 2007; of them ten are public universities and sixteen are private universities, among them four universities are specialized in postgraduate studies. The government has issued a series of laws concerning higher education and Jordanian universities. The Uniform Code of universities Act 29 of 1987 confirmed that the university is a national institution of higher education and scientific research that aimed at: firstly, to disseminate knowledge, develop and contribute to the progress of human thought. Secondly, providing opportunities of university education theoretical and applied to the qualified students and researchers. Thirdly, encouraging scientific research and development of scientific curriculum, intellectual independence, and personal initiative and developing sense of belonging to the nation and the spirit of responsibility and teamwork. Fifthly, deepen of the Islamic faith, spiritual, moral and also paying care towards Arab civilization and Islamic heritage. Sixthly,
providing service to the Jordanian society and its needs and contribute to the service of the Arab society. Public Sector Universities in Jordan are listed below:

- University of Jordan
- Yarmouk University
- Mu'tah University
- Jordan University of Science & Technology
- Al al-Bayt University
- The Hashemite University
- AL-Balqa Applied University
- AL-Hussein Bin Talal University
- Al-Tafila technical University
- German-Jordanian University

As per the scope of the present study, Public Sector Universities have been described as under:-

3.5 University of Jordan (Government)

The University of Jordan is both a modern as well as old institution of Higher Education in Jordan. The University of Jordan is a government-supported University located in Amman- Jordan. Founded in 1962, it is the largest and oldest university in the hashemite kingdom of Jordan. The university employs 2700 of faculty staff and has more than 38,000 enrolled students.

It is located in the Jubaiha area, District of University, Amman. The University of Jordan has the highest admission averages in the country and is considered the premier university in Jordan and one of the most prestigious in the Arab World.

3.6.1 Faculties:

At the undergraduate level, students have the choice to select from among 63 different programs in the Arts, Business Administration, Science, Shari'a (Islamic Studies), Medicine, Nursing, Agriculture, Educational Sciences, Engineering and
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Technology, Law, Physical Education, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Humanities and Social Sciences, Rehabilitation Sciences, Information Technology and, most recently, Arts and Design. For those interested in graduate education, the University offers 30 doctoral programs, 81 Master's programs, 16 programs in Higher Specialization in Medicine, one program in Higher Specialization in Dentistry, 3 Professional Diploma Programs, and 6 interdisciplinary Master's programs across the wide spectrum of academic disciplines.

From an international perspective, the University offers 63 international programs at the undergraduate level, and 130 international programs at the graduate level and in all fields of specializations. In its capacity as a comprehensive teaching, research and community-service institution, the University of Jordan enables its students to choose from a wide range of programs- more than 3500 different courses are offered by some 18 faculties. The University of Jordan is divided into the following 18 faculties:

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Business
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Shari'a (Islamic Studies)
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Nursing
- Faculty of Agriculture
- Faculty of Educational Sciences
- Faculty of Engineering & Technology
- Faculty of Law
3.6.2 Mission:

The University of Jordan’s educational mission is based on the following pillars:

- The provision of quality education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- The adoption of the principle of democracy in the education and decision-making processes.
- Interaction among students, with the local community, and at the international level, and
- Support of goal-oriented research, particularly research activities which are in line with the national development plans. It has a number of faculties of different fields, such as, The Faculties of the university are. Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing, Engineering and Technology, Science, Business Administration, Law, Shari’a (Islamic Studies), Humanities and Social Sciences, Educational Sciences, Rehabilitation Sciences, Agriculture, Physical Education, Arts, Information Technology, Graduate Studies (FGS).
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The University of Jordan launched its first graduate program after six years of its establishment (1968/69). This was an MA program in Educational Administration and Guidance, to be followed, three years later, by an MA Program in History. The University gathered momentum in the second decade of its life; new faculties were established and it started to pay more attention to research and graduate studies. This was reflected in launching eight new graduate programs in the academic years 1972/73 and 1973/74. To administer these graduate programs, the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies, as of 1984 the Faculty of Graduate Studies, was established in 1973 with the following aims:

- To increase human knowledge,
- To lay foundations for research in the University,
- To develop students' capabilities in research methodology in all fields,
- To graduate specialists of high standards to help in national development,
- To direct studies toward local, regional and Arab problems. The Faculty of Graduate Studies admits students from many Arab and foreign countries either through the International Graduate Program or through cultural exchange programs.

3.6.3 Infrastructure:

Many current and former staff members head important academic, administrative, and political establishments in the Kingdom; many have served as ministers in a number of government cabinets, top advisers to the Jordanian leadership, members of Parliament, and presidents of Jordanian public and private universities. Among its more than 1086 faculty members are freelance writers in the national newspapers and magazines as well as consultants for the radio and TV stations, poets, novelists, short-story writers, and literary critics. Many have also offered their services to some neighboring Arab and Muslim countries, and many teach or have taught at a number of prestigious universities.
all over the world. Most faculty members are active participants in conferences, workshops, and symposia abroad; and most take advantage of the various research and exchange awards. Given the global outlook, the progressive thinking and diverse background, these faculty members shoulder the responsibility of delivering a quality education to the 38,000 students who are pursuing a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate programs.

The Table 3.1 Shows that the academic staff of the University for the Year 2005/2006. It is observed the University of Jordan has the largest rank of academic staff of 352 assistant professors, followed by 331 full Professors, 222 associate professors, whereas, the other reaming ranks, have the lowest academic staff in order, 91 lecturers, 79 teaching and research assistants, and 54 instructors, during the academic year 2005/2006.
### Table 3.1 Academic staff of the Public University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Universities</th>
<th>Full Prof.</th>
<th>Associate Prof.</th>
<th>Assistant Prof.</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Res. Ass.</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 The University of Jordan</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>1129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Yarmouk University</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Mu'tah University</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Jordan University of Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 AL al - Bayt University</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 The Hashemite University</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Al-Balqa’ Applied University</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Al-Hussain Bin Talal University</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Tafila Technical University</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 German Jordanian University</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: compiled from the websites of different universities, 2008*
3.6.4 University Library

The University of Jordan's main Library was established in 1962 and it has been endowed with major attention. Providing it with a qualified technical staff and the required financial shares, have contributed in establishing it as a pioneer library in both the Arab World and the Middle East region. More than 800,000 library titles are available in forms of books, periodicals, theses, microfilms besides a number of audiovisual materials. The library offers a number of services for the university members, the students, the academic and administrative staff as well as researchers from outside university and the local community. It opens its doors to offer its daily services to visitors range between 5000 and 10000 a day. The library has undergone an automation project offering a computerized system of acquisition, borrowing and returning books. Through its effort to enhance the role of technology in modern libraries, UJ library has activated the project of the e-library by allocating certain databases for subject-heading search, thesis abstracts search, the UJ educational publishing search including studies, and the educational magazines. It has recently undergone a project of providing a full-text search for theses defended since 2002.

By coping with the latest technological events to maintain service in providing all kinds of information resources that cover all sorts of disciplines available at the faculties of the University of Jordan, we can ensure the easiest and the most efficient access to all of the library items. Working on our vision to see the light, we have recently signed an agreement with the official Jordanian universities to form a Consortium that combines all of the universities libraries under the name of "Jordanian Center of Excellence for public University Library Services" located at Yarmouk University. The aim of the Consortium is to manage Jordanian universities libraries information network and coordinate its services for multi-economical- purposes (expenditure rationalization, information resource sharing and unifying mechanism for library work among the member libraries. Thus was
the choice of a new library system namely, Horizon to be installed in the year of 2006. (www.ju.edu.jo)

3.7 Al- Balqa' Applied University (BAU) Government Undertaking:

Al- Balqa' Applied University (BAU) was founded in 1997, a distinctive state university in the field of Bachelor and Associate degree Applied Education, at the capacity of 21,246 student distributed into 10,000 at the Bachelor degree program and 11,000 at the Associate degree program.

3.7.1 Students: 21,246 student distributed into 10,000 at the Bachelor degree program and 11,000 at the Associate degree program.

3.7.2 Faculties: To cater the education in different fields the university is providing education in the following areas:

- Faculty of Applied Sciences
- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Technological Agriculture
- Faculty of Planning & Management
- Faculty of Graduate Studies & Scientific Research
- Traditional Islamic Arts Institute.

3.7.3 BAU’s University Colleges & Community Colleges:

Technological Engineering College, Usul Al-Deen University College, Tafilah Applied University College, Princess Rahma University College, Al- Hosun University College, Ajloun University College, Princess Alia University College, Aqaba University College, Amman University College, Irbid University College,
Zarqa University College, Al-Salt College, Karak College, Ma'an College, Shobak College and the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center College.

BAU supervises academically, educationally, technically all the private, military and the United Nations International Relief Organization (UNRWA) subsidiary community colleges, estimated in (34) college.

The number of the academic majors in BAU reached (12) majors at Master's degree program level, (3) majors at High Diploma degree level, (47) majors at Bachelor degree level and (88) majors at the Associate degree level.

3.7.4 BAU awards academic degrees and certificates:

Associate, Bachelor, High Diploma and Master's degree certificates.

3.7.5 BAU's University Colleges & Community Colleges:

Technological Engineering College, Usul Al-Deen University College, Tafihil Applied University College, Princess Rahma University College, Al- Hosun University College, Ajloun University College, Princess Alia University College, Aqaba University College, Amman University College for Financial & Administrative Sciences, Irbid University College, Zarqa University College, Al-Salt College, Karak College, Ma'an College, Shobak College and the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center College.

BAU supervises academically, educationally, technically the entire private, military and the United Nations International Relief Organization (UNRWA) subsidiary community Colleges, estimated in (35) College.
3.7.6 BAU’s Private Community Colleges:

BAU supervises academically, educationally, technically the entire private, military and the United Nations International Relief Organization (UNRWA) subsidiary community Colleges, estimated in (35) College.

3.7.7 The Library:

The library offers faculty members, staff, students and the local community with different sources of information; it works at organizing and filling this material for easy and expedient retrieval. The library offers the following services:

- Lending books.
- Maintaining books and other sources of information in the library.
- Conducting studies related to its work.
- Developing the performance of the staff as well as that of other librarians in the local community through training courses.
- Supporting newly established libraries through book exchanges and counseling.
- Holding book exhibitions on campus and in the local community.
- The library holds around 24,500 books of which 17,500 are in Arabic and 7000 are in English.
- It is also subscribed to 150 scientific periodicals and is home to 50 complementary periodicals from different sources.
- It also has around 315 CD ROMs and 1409 disks.

The library consists of the following Sections:

- Acquisition Section.
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- Cataloging and Classification Section.
- Periodicals Section.
- Circulation Section.
- Computer Section.

3.7.8 Achievements:

The library has held a number of training courses for its employees in the different fields that are related to their work, such as classification, filling and computer courses. It also trains students on library proper usage, looking up resources and so on. Furthermore, it has arrived at a draft of agreement with other Jordanian universities to facilitate inter-lending between libraries in order to provide faculty members and students with all the resources they need. All library services have been computerized to facilitate date search and retrieval.

The library’s new building at an approximate 7000 m² is still under construction and holds many reading halls to provide students with larger halls for reading and bigger space for storing books and other sources of information.

3.7.9 BAU Mission:

BAU provides the Jordan Market with distinguished highly qualified graduates fulfilling the demands of the Jordan Market with experts and professional employment accordingly of high standards responds to the exchangeable market's needs technically and systematically.

BAU emphasizes excel value in education through conforming to keep on the process of upgrading the type of management and teaching, providing new equipment facilities, services, academic standards and proceeding in upgrading the quality of graduates and trainees.
BAU is heading towards the applied education strongly, sustain its attitudes towards application heading the advancement and modern changes and coping with era and technology prerequisites, the economic and social life fields relevant to constant implementation in Education, Vocational and Technical Training process in a wide scale guaranteeing an effective participation of the stakeholders and the Industrials in developing management, programs and the educational progress.

BAU's academic programs are flexible enough to permit pioneer students to admit for Bridging Process from Associate level to Bachelor level.

3.8 University of Petra (Private)

University of Petra (UOP) is a private institution established in 1991 under the name of Jordan University for Women (JUW). At that time, JUW was established to serve the female community of Jordan and the region. In 1999, the strategic approach of the University changed to serve both genders of Jordan and the region, and therefore the name has changed to UOP. UOP offers B.Sc. programs in the fields of Humanities, Sciences, Information Technology, Management and Finance, Pharmacy, Nutrition, Architecture and Interior and Graphic Design. In addition, UOP now offers Master's programs in Pharmacy and English Language Translation with more programs are currently being planned.

Since its establishment, UOP endeavored to become a modern educational institution in the region, equipped with notable academic and educational capabilities. The University grants a number of Ph.D. scholarships annually to the distinguished graduates, these awards cover both tuition fees and living expenses. The University also provides a number of grants and financial incentives to its distinguished students and to those who are in need.

UOP is keen to adopt quality assurance schemes to assure the quality of its provisions. This is reflected in its participation with the HFE's SPQA program and
the work of this report to embrace QA measures at the institutional level. In addition, the accountant program has already participated in the HFE review program during 2006. Currently, the computer science program is participating in the HFE review program due in April 2007. Both English language and literature program and the financial science program are also going to participate in this year round of HFE subject review (October 2007), while the pharmacy program is scheduled to participate in next year's round.

3.8.1 Campus and Facilities:

UOP carries the name and the logo of the most important historical cities of the world usually called the "rose-red city". However, the University is located near the center of Amman, the capital of Jordan, 7 km south of the 7th circle off the airport road. The campus is compact with all facilities within easy walking distance. It includes teaching facilities, administrative areas, theaters, a library, a computer center, a clinic, a bank, a mini-supermarket, a restaurant, and a bookstore. These are all grouped in the heart of the campus creating a strong sense of social and academic community. The university's green-field squares contribute to a general feeling of peace and calm. The University is also equipped with a multipurpose sport complex to provide world-class sports facilities, to be used by professional sports teams as well as students and staff. This is in addition to a basketball, volleyball, tennis, and two soccer fields. International female students are offered on-campus accommodation at the university dormitories for their first year of study.

Staffed by qualified nurses and physicians, the on-campus clinic provides free medical, pharmacy and ambulance services. In addition, a health insurance program for all students and staff is available.

3.8.2 Students Profile:
Students are assisted to adapt to University life and culture by the Deanship of Students Affairs (DSA) and the academic advisor. At the start of each academic year, DSA organizes an orientation program for new students, in which seniors, starting with the University's President, address them. They are provided with information on UOP rules and regulations and introduced to facilities therein. The University has a student union, which plays a vital role in helping students to adjust to, and be involved in, university activities. UOP provides transportation services for students for a nominal fee. The University also provides health insurance to all students.

Distribution of enrolled students per faculty 2006/2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Bachelor Male</th>
<th>Bachelor Female</th>
<th>Master Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture and Fine Arts</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin. &amp; Fin. Sciences</td>
<td>1631</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy &amp; Med. Technology</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Inf. Technology</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3230</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.8.3 Library:

The University of Petra's Library is at the forefront of the campus and opens during morning and evening term programs. It has a total area of 5185 square meters. There is seating for over 1500 readers and it is equipped with about 250
PCs, computer workstations and laptop docking points. It has a stock of about 60,000 reference books, around 340 periodicals and subscribes to EBSCO (online journal data base) for more journal titles. Further details can be found in Appendix A: Library Holding In addition to the library services, UOP ensures that each faculty and department has its own learning resources to enable the students to make the best use of skills and capabilities. Appendix B: A list of labs around the campus. Lists of 75 labs covering all faculties and departments which require such resources.

The university enjoys a state of the art ICT infrastructure. The university is served by a fast LAN network with high speed routers, fiber optic and wireless connections in certain designated areas. The network is served with the latest blade servers located at the computer center. There are around 1175 PCs on campus and more than 150 printers to serve staff and students. The university has agreements with a number of leading software vendors to avail software packages for teaching purposes. There are around 25 classrooms that are equipped with data shows and internet connections to enrich content delivery. All computers have access to Internet via the university's wide band internet connection through a leased line at a speed of 4Mb/sec. The computer center provides a learning managing system (LMS) named Blackboard and Share Point Portals (both planned to be operational in the near future), and on-line access to student records (for academic guidance purposes). The computer center also acts as the university's webmaster and offers programming services to certain projects.

3.8.4 Vision:

We aspire to be the University of Choice, in Jordan and the region, for learners and scholars.

Mission Statements
3.8.4.1 Universities Purpose:

We aim to play a significant role in the progress of our nation through creating and disseminating knowledge & technology and preparing graduates who can contribute positively towards their communities.

3.8.4.2 Universities Business:

Our mission is to create an academic, cultural and social environment that develops research opportunities; builds-up the competence of our members; provides active community service, and prepares our students to be capable of creative and critical thinking and life long learning, and are able to compete in the marketplace.

3.8.4.3 Universities Values:

In conducting our work, we are guided by the following values:

- Pursue knowledge for the sake of knowledge.
- Equal opportunities to learn and excel.
- Respect for others' opinions.
- Motivate members for life long learning.
- Diversity is the essence of our existence.
- Encourage teamwork and collaboration.
- Treasure creativity and achievements.
• Advocate intellectual freedom.

• Committed to social justice and social responsibility.

• Dedicated to leadership and accountability.

3.8.4.4 Goals

In fulfilling our mission, it seeks to:

• (Governance): Maintain a responsible, accountable and caring leadership and governance that is strategically oriented to lead the university to fulfill its vision and mission optimize the usage of its resources, and sustain its existence.

• (Academic environment & resources): Establish a vibrant scientific environment by providing adequate resources and infrastructure for teaching, learning and the creation and dissemination of knowledge and technology.

• (Cultural environment): Promote intellectual work, creative thinking, freedom of speech, and communal dialog to establish a rich cultural environment that positively contributes to the well-being of the nation.

• (Social environment): Build a happy caring society within the university, with a joyful atmosphere and pleasant working conditions, where members of the university can enjoy performing and contribute positively to their full potential.

• (Quality education: programs, teaching, learning & progression): Provide and promote quality education with suitable variety of well-reviewed programs to turn out graduates of outstanding academic caliber, who are
capable of life long learning, creative and critical thinking and who can successfully progress into further education and market careers.

- **(Build-up competence):** Create opportunities, programs and incentives that allow university staff members to improve their skills, expertise and proficiency and be promoted.

- **(Research & outreach):** Avail funds and resources, bridge to the outside world and encourage innovation and novelty to create opportunities of scientific research, novel discoveries, technology transfer, and active participations in conferences and conventions.

- **(Community service):** Support various scholar and non-scholar initiatives directed to assess and enrich the socio-economical aspects of the local community and the region.

### 3.9 Al-Ahliyya Amman University (Private)

Al-Ahliyya Amman University is a university located in Amman, Jordan. It is the leading private university in Jordan. Al Ahliya Amman University is the first privately funded and managed university to be established in Jordan. Since its founding year in 1990, this university has set a role model for launching many other privately owned universities in Jordan and in the Middle East. The Faculty of Information Technology was established in 2001 as a new independent entity of Al-Ahliya Amman University and a regional centre to offer a new breed of academic programs to the local and regional IT community. The faculty currently offers a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science as well as Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems.

It is active in the field of private higher education. AU is fully accredited by the Jordanian Council of Higher Education, the only accrediting authority in Jordan.
AU enjoys wide Arab and international recognition, and it is an active member of the Association of Arab Universities.

We believe you have come to the right place, whether you are a student seeking good education, or a faculty member considering a challenging teaching job, or a parent seeking university placement for his or her beloved children. In addition to a healthy and challenging academic atmosphere, we care much to provide for developing within our students a high sense of social and cultural commitments. We are proud of our modern educational facilities and our teaching staff. We invite you to share with us the experience of a truly productive and challenging campus community life.

3.9.1 Faculties: These are the seven academic faculties in which the university is divided into:

- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Nursing
- Faculty of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences
- Faculty of Information Technology
- Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Finance and Administrative Sciences

3.9.2 Facilities:

The university also contains:

- Amman University Arena
• Dormitories for female students
• A building that houses a branch of Arab Bank, a clinic and sports halls.
• A mosque
• Sports fields

3.9.3 Specializations:

Amman University follows the credit-hour system. In this system, the yearly instruction takes place for the duration of two semesters, 16 weeks each, and one optional summer semester of 8 weeks in duration. Through five academic faculties now in full operation, AU offers the Bachelor’s Degree in the following fields of specializations: Nursing-Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, Information Technology Sciences, Computer Information Systems, Computer Science, Program Engineering, Human Sciences and Art, English Language and literature, English Language – Translation, Psychology, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Law, Finance and Administrative Sciences, Business Administration, Hotel Management and Tourism, Marketing, Finance and Banking Management, Accounting, Management Information System. (www.uop.edu.jo)

3.10 Image of the Private Universities;

The image of the private university in Jordan is a product less of the private universities themselves and more of the prejudice expressed by members of the public university community. Much is made of the fact that students "pay" for their education, and intimations of unfair practices and substandard education abound. Nevertheless, there is no evidence that the private universities are not doing a good job, or in fact that the public universities are doing a better job, and so far the latter have escaped scrutiny in spite of a certain amount of fiscal recklessness. Some resentment arises from the fact that private universities pay better salaries, but this is on a contract basis without the expectation of tenure,
whereas Jordanian faculty members in the public universities are guaranteed employment for life after two years of service (this stipulation does not apply to non-Jordanians) and frequently opt for this security rather than taking the risk associated with a private institution's higher salary. Although rarely mentioned, a substantial number of public university officials and faculty members own shares in private university companies.

The complaint most frequently heard about private universities is that their admissions standards are lower, and at first glance this would seem to be the case. University admission is based on the results of the tawjihi—the General Secondary School Certificate Examination (GSSCE). The qualifying score is 65 percent for public universities and 60 percent for private universities. Actual requirements may be higher in some specializations owing to competition. For example, medicine generally calls for at least an 85 percent score and engineering 80 percent. The GSSCE is given in subject groupings (comparable in concept to the British A-levels) but the largest category by far is the combined total in arts and science. In 1995 a total of 41,000 students took the arts exam, of which 12,000 scored at least 65 percent and 15,000 at least 60 percent; 23,000 took the science exam, of which 13,000 scored at least 65 percent and 15,000 at least 60 percent. (First-year places in the public universities totaled less than 15,000 that year.)

This is not the full picture, however. In the public universities about 25 percent of the available places are reserved for students in special groups who make the qualifying score (65 percent). The "special" list includes children of the armed and security forces and Ministry of Education personnel, applicants from certain foreign countries (not including Malaysia, which has its own separately negotiated quota), and those with waste of one kind or another. This exemption means that the sliding scale of competition does not affect a large number of applicants, and consequently many better qualified students lose their public university slots to the less qualified.
3.11 Problems and Solutions:

The basic problem of private higher education in Jordan is that the private universities were established as a "quick fix" for the mushrooming access deficit in a system without surplus money, and where the existing money was not effectively spent. Furthermore, the development of the private university was restricted to the existing tradition in curriculum and delivery rather than reaching out for innovation and creativity. Recent weeks have seen public addresses given by Crown Prince Hassan, Princess Sarvath, and others signifying potential changes. Probable actions are: professionalizing the Higher Education Council and adding private university representation, improving the management autonomy of both private and public institutions, and establishing an accreditation body for all higher education. With these first steps taken, the private universities may be able to cross the threshold into a new importance in Jordanian higher education. (Dolores L. Burke and Ahmad A. (1997)