

NEWSLETTER

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Events & Notices

Enrolment Drive

Tuesday 02 – Friday 26,
January 2018
9.00am – 4.00pm
FNPF Boulevard | MHCC |
TSLB

Productivity

Awareness Campaign
Thursday 18 January, 2018
6.00pm to 7.40pm



FNU Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey.

Major review of programmes

The Fiji National University (FNU) has carried out a major Academic Portfolio review over the last one year to ensure quality education in all the academic programmes.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey said every programme offered at the University has been reviewed against a range of quality performance indicators.

“We are the national university, it is our role to support the workforce needs of the country, therefore, everything we are doing is designed to fill those gaps,” said Prof Healey.

He said the University ambitions to produce students that were highly employable upon graduation.

“We looked at a whole range of indicators across programmes such as student demands and the number of involvements in the programmes. Then we looked at another set of indicators which was about the performance of students when they are at the University. This included average student Grade Point Averages (GPAs) and the indicators of outcome in terms of graduation probability.

“After reviewing the programmes, we went through comprehensive curriculum reform where we have semesterised every single

Undergraduate programme in the University moving it to a common course structure where each course has the same credit points, basically changing every single certificate, diploma and degree in the University.”

Professor Healey said the Colleges were advised to carefully consider their quality indicators during the reform process.

“Our programmes are designed keeping in mind the aspects that maximises the prospects of employment. For example, if a programme had low graduate employability, the colleges were advised to put in additional courses that could improve the employability of the graduates.

“We design our programmes to actually fit for particular employers, for instance, all our doctors and nurses are employed by Ministry of Health and our teachers by the Ministry of Education. Therefore, it is the private sector job that we have to work harder when we are aligning the graduate profile with what employers want.”

The VC said the University has recently made a large number of senior appointments to drive forward the reform agendas.

Prof Healey added that getting international accreditation for programmes was also a significant component of the reform.

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FNU in the Media

- FNU Introduces Programmes To Suit Industrial, Regional Demands
- FNU fosters strong relations
- FNU introduce LLB program
- 94 Students graduated from FNU's Labasa Campus
- FNU has developed 40 programmes which have international accreditation
- Building \$6m of FNU Labasa Campus to Start Early 2018
- FNU Chancellor, Tui Macuata Motivate Labasa Graduates

CEST aligns to regional need

FNU's College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) has introduced 40 new programmes to suit the Fijian industrial and regional demands.

The introduction of these programmes marks the College's commitment to ensuring all its programmes are relevant and compatible not only in Fiji but internationally as well.

Acting Dean CEST, Salabogi Mavoa (*pictured*) said 2018 would bring an exciting era for CEST students.

"Especially for trade courses, we have new diploma programmes that use the template for the Dublin Accord; an international accreditation, which is good for students making them more marketable," said Mr Mavoa.

"The industries are demanding for graduates and attaches and these programmes have been designed to meet their demands."

The government widened access to Tertiary Education Loan Scheme (TELS) in June 2017 budget where for the first time students who complete Year 12 successfully can enter University directly with TELS but only if the students enter into engineering programmes at FNU.

Mr Mavoa said the College already offers the set diploma programmes but there were new diploma programmes that students can enter after Year 12.

He said the other group that now has access to TELS funding directly are the students who graduate from Technical College of Fiji (TCF).

"Previously, these students had to repay their loan before they could start at the university. However, now they can continue with their studies at the University with TELS funding right through to degree level.

"We have also launched a range of Certificate III programmes which will allow students to come from TCF Certificate II to the University, mainly in the engineering field. Afterwards, the students can decide on whether they want to go on diploma programmes or through to degree," Mr Mavoa added.

The new post graduate, masters and PhD programmes also commence next year.



Positive plans for NTPC

The National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC) has major plans in place as it moves into 2018.

Director NTPC Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata (*pictured*) said NTPC would be focusing on some key priority areas.

Dr Isimeli said the NTPC would also be working on improving quality and relevance of in-service trainings on offer in partnership with industry stakeholders.

"We intend to facilitate more programmes for smaller scale entrepreneurs, with tailor-made programmes earmarked for them. Our programmes are set up to assist trainees to be able to perform professionally when they join the industry or trainees who are already in the industry and we've received positive feedback from

employers who have recruited our graduates as their employees.

"We are also working on improving our NTPC infrastructure so they are of international standards and to meet expectations of industry. With that in mind we will also be working in partnership with all training providers to ensure pathways to higher qualification and skills for all workers in Fiji," said the Director.

NTPC has been mandated to provide training to organisations so that they transform to become efficient, productive and competent in the domestic, regional and global market.

"NTPC would also be introducing creative marketing of Apprenticeship and Trade Testing having produced prestigious apprentices in different fields of study and has developed school leavers to embrace the real life situation of working in the industry," said Dr Tagicakiverata

NTPC would also be introducing and emphasising on Green Productivity ideas.



Major infrastructure improvements planned

Several capital projects are underway at the Fiji National University aimed at improving overall student experiences and making the University more competitive in the tertiary education sector.

The construction of the \$6m FNU campus at Naiyaca Subdivision is expected to begin early next year.

This was highlighted by FNU Chancellor, Ikbal Jannif (*pictured*) during the graduation ceremony at the Labasa Civic Centre earlier this month.



“As you know, Government has allocated a total of \$6m to begin the construction of the FNU Labasa campus. The new campus will initially cater for a larger number of students from the North, and in the second phase will also provide for the accommodation needs of students coming from further afield,” said Mr Jannif.

“I am happy to say that we are in the final phase of signing the contract and if all goes well, we should see a number of activities

happening at the Fiji National University land.

“Fiji National University never had a campus in Labasa and

has always operated from rented premises since the days of Fiji Institute of Technology (FIT).”

- Mr Jannif highlighted the following works:

The first stage will include the administration building, lecture rooms, tutorial rooms and computer laboratories.

- The other support divisions will be in the second building and the third building will contain more lecture rooms for National Training and Productivity Centre.

- The fourth building will be the workshop and all these should be ready by end of 2018.

Other plans and developments:

- The Government allocated \$3m to the Koronivia Campus for the building of the veterinary laboratories, and the instructional livestock shed and to start the new veterinary hospital.
- A new Creative Arts building on Nasinu campus to replace the UniStudio campus previously in Raiwai
- A gymnasium on Nasinu campus
- A 4 story business school on Nasinu campus
- Also looking at hostel expansion with more beds and kitchen and dining areas to better provide catering facilities to students.

First-rate network soon for University

FNU Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey (*pictured*) says the University is making a massive investment in Information and Communications Technology with a vision to be completely digitally connected.

He said the University is looking to sign a contract with Australian Academic Research Network (AARNet) shortly which will enable FNU to directly connect to the landing station giving the University direct access to the internet that comes into the country through Southern Cross network cable.



“This will dramatically increase the broadband speeds in the University. This agreement will also give us access to a range of software tools that are available through AARNet, such as video conferencing and other tools,” said Prof Healey.

“This government funded project is a \$2.5m investment to actually put a new structure in place and to get an upgrade but

thereafter the running costs will be lower than currently.”

The VC said the University the University is making vast changes keeping in mind that learning is increasingly virtual rather than in physical spaces.

“We also have Open Learning Commons project with the libraries where we are converting our libraries from sort of book depository into social learning spaces where students can study, do group discussions without much restrictions.

“We are putting much of our investment into digital collections where we have got a huge range now of digital journals and digital books that the students can access through the library and their own devices.”

Prof Healey said the University is also looking to sign contract for new Student Management System (SMS) shortly.

“At the moment our colleges are using legacy software systems which predate merger. We need a new integrated SMS that allows all our systems to kind of integrate and it will facilitate wide range of activities such as online enrolment and students will be able to check their results in real time.



Law programme provides holistic learning

College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies' Law programmes; Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (GDLP) have received accreditation and recognition by Board of Legal Education of Fiji.

The restructured LLB programme will be offered from next year while the GDLP, which will be undertaken by LLB graduates who intend to practice law, is going to be offered in 2019.

Head of Department of Law, Ana Rokomokoti said the FNU LLB programme is unique in the sense that it is designed in a way to develop the students holistically, not only restricted to obtaining in-depth knowledge and skills of knowing the law, reading the law and developing analytical and advocacy skills, but building the character of the future lawyers who will not be afraid to work hard, persevere in order to succeed.

"Exercising humility is also something we place emphasis on since, nowadays, this term appears to have become old-fashioned. Of course, humility needs to be balanced against fairness, firmness and assertiveness right from the word 'go'," said Ms Rokomokoti.

The requirement for entrance into the LLB programme is a

Year 13 pass with compulsory pass in English. A Year 13 pass would mean obtaining 200 out of 400 marks. For mature entry, the requirements are slightly different.



(L-R) HOD Law Ms. Ana Rokomokoti with Lecturers Ms Adarshani Vikash, Ms Akanisi N Vakawaletabua and Dr Jalesi Nakarawa.

New lecture theatre for Natabua campus

The keys of the newly constructed lecture theatre at the FNU Natabua campus was handed over to the Pro-Vice Chancellor Learning & Teaching and Dean College of Humanities and Education (CHE), Dr Eci Nabalarua by Director Estates & Facilities (DEF), Shalendra Gounden.

The elegant and cheerful ceremony was witnessed by the academic, administrative and support staff of Natabua campus.

Former FNU Council member and Natokowaqa Methodist Circuit Superintendent, Reverend Ledua Colati officiated at the ceremony.

Reverend Colati was commissioned by the FNU Council with a member of the FNU Senior Management Group (SMG) to select the furniture from China for the different lecture theatres and classrooms including this new lecture theatre.

The formal opening of the building is scheduled for Monday 15 January, which will be done by the Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey.



Staff New Year Resolutions

Manoj Sharma
Human Resource Assistant

Reduce stress: They say that stress is one of the biggest killers out there, and it can have a very destructive effect on your relationships as well as your health. Moving into the New Year, I want to engage in activities that would keep me content while reducing my stress level at the same time.



Helen Ieli
NTPC Customer Service Officer - Executive Management
My New Year's Resolution is to spend more time with family, be healthy and help others.



Ravinesh Chandra
NTPC Training Officer - IT
My New Year's resolution would be to focus on my health and to be more productive.



Edward Sami
OVC Driver
Moving into 2018, I want to engage myself in more exercising activities and eat healthy.



Aliyah Khan
Events Coordinator
My resolution is to be more productive and work hard, study harder, spend quality time with family.

Vacancies

For career opportunities at the Fiji National University visit the following link <http://waf.fnu.ac.fj/eoi/> Uploads for new vacant academic and non-academic positions are done each week. Some positions currently available online are:

- Pro-Vice Chancellor Research
- Pro-Vice Chancellor Learning & Teaching
- Research Director
- Training Officer in Commercial Cookery
- Executive Assistant
- Manager Projects
- Training Officer in Food Safety and Quality
- Manager Projects
- Assistant Professor in Problem Based Learning
- Assistant Professor in Periodontics