Fiji National University Act

Fiji National University

CONTENTS

	Page
Principal	
Fiji National University Act 2009 (No 39 of 2009)	
Table of Provisions	780,021
Table of Amendments	780,101
Fiji National University Act 2009	780,201
Subsidiary	
Fiji National Training (Trade Testing) Regulations 1976 (LN 121 of 1976)	
Table of Provisions	786,621
Table of Amendments	786,721
Fiji National Training (Trade Testing) Regulations 1976	786,821
Fiji National Training (1976) Order (LN 176 of 1976)	,
Table of Provisions	789,661
Table of Amendments	789,761
Fiji National Training (1976) Order	789,861
Fiji National Training Levy Order 1988 (LN 28 of 1988)	, 0,,001
Table of Provisions	792,061
Table of Amendments	792,161
Fiji National Training Levy Order 1988	792,261
Fiji National Training Levy (Designation) Order 1988 (LN 27 of 1988)	, , -,-
Table of Provisions	794,261
Table of Amendments	794,361
Fiji National Training Levy (Designation) Order 1988	794,461

LAWS OF FIJI

Fiii Notional Training (Dames de la CA	Page
Fiji National Training (Remuneration of Apprentices) Order 2003 (LN 11 of 2003)	
Table of Provisions	796,461
Table of Amendments	796,561
Fiji National Training (Remuneration of Apprentices) Order 2003.	796,661

[The next page is 780,021]

Fiji National University Act 2009

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

Section	o de la composition de la composition La composition de la	Paragraph
	PART 1 — PRELIMINARY	
1	Short title and commencement	[FNU 1]
2,		[FNU 2]
3	Object of the Act Interpretation	[FNU 3]
	PART 2 — THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS COUNCIL	ere. T
4	Establishment of the University	[FNU 4]
5	Object of the University	[FNU 5]
6	Functions and powers of the University	[FNU 6]
7	Council	[FNU 7]
8	Functions of the Council	[FNU 8]
9	Powers of the Council	[FNU 9]
10	Council to promote University's interests	[FNU 10]
11	Delegation	[FNU 11]
12	Membership of the Council	[FNU 12]
13	Official members	[FNU 13]
14	Appointed members	[FNU 14]
15	Elected members	[FNU 15]
16	Co-opted members	[FNU 16]
17	Failure to make nominations in accordance to	
	section 14(2)	[FNU 17]
18	- PAHDIBG DJ GIGGI GIGGIGG HIGHIDGA	[FNU 18]
19	Dealing with casual vacancy	[FNU 19]
20	Ineligibility for membership of Council	[FNU 20]
21	Vacation of office	[FNU 21]
22	Members function and obligations	[FNU 22]
23	Council may remove a member from office	[FNU 23]
24	Meetings of the Council	[FNU 24]
25	Conduct of meetings	[FNU 25]
26	Protection of members of the Council	[FNU 26]
e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	PART 3 — OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY	
27	Members of the University	[FNU 27]
28	·	[FNU 28]
29	The Deputy Chancellor	[FNU 29]
30	The Vice-Chancellor	[FNU 30]
	780,021	Service O

Service 0

LAWS OF FIJI

Section 31	Other officers	Paragraph [FNU 31]
F	ART 4 — BODIES OF OR CONNECTED WITH THE UNIVI	ERSITY
32 33 34 35 35A	Establishment of the University Senate Chairperson of the Senate Establishment of colleges etc Academic structure of the University Establishment of a National Training and Productivity Centre	[FNU 32] [FNU 33] [FNU 34] [FNU 35]
	PART 5 — UNIVERSITY FINANCES	
36 37 38 39	Funds of the University Budget University's financial year Auditing of accounts and annual reports	
74 Taris	PART 6 — MISCELLANEOUS	
40 40A 41 42	Making of University regulations Regulations Non-discrimination Academic freedom	[FNU 40] [FNU 40A] [FNU 41] [FNU 42]
- 11	PART 7 — LEVY ORDER AND APPRENTICES	· · ·
42A	Levy Order	
42B 42C 42D 42E 42F 42G 42H 42I 42J	Consequences upon failure to comply with the Levy Order Apprenticeship and training Apprentices Arrangements where apprentice not engaged Exemptions Training Orders for other persons Obstruction Authorised officers Penalties	[FNU 42A] [FNU 42B] [FNU 42C] [FNU 42D] [FNU 42E] [FNU 42F] [FNU 42G] [FNU 42H] [FNU 42I] [FNU 42J]
	PART 8 — TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS	
43 44 45 46 46A 47 47A	Operation of the Fiji University Constituent Institutions to commencement date Assets and liabilities Contracts Staff rights and entitlements Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji Transitory Council Repeals	[FNU 43] [FNU 44] [FNU 45] [FNU 46] [FNU 46A] [FNU 47] [FNU 47A]

[The next page is 780,101]

Fiji National University Act 2009

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS

Fiji National University Act 2009 (No 39 of 2009)¹ commenced on 27 October 2009 (ss 32–35), 18 December 2009 (s 47), and 24 December 2009 (ss 1–11, 21–23, 26–31, 36–42), 1 January 2010 (ss 12–20), 1 January 2011 (s 24), as amended by:

Amending Legislation	Date of Commencement	
Fiji National University (Amendment) Decree 2010 (No 58 of 2010)	29 November 2010	
Revised Edition of the Laws (Consequential Amendments) Act 2016 (No 31 of 2016)	1 December 2016	

¹ This was promulgated as Decree 39 of 2009. In accordance with section 3 of the Interpretation Act 1967, the word "Decree" used with reference to any such "Decree" in the title or provisions of any written law or in any document or legal proceeding may be replaced with the word "Act".

[The next page is 780,201]

780,102

PART 1 — PRELIMINARY

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[FNU 1] Short title and commencement

- 1 (1) This Act may be cited as the Fiji National University Act 2009.
- (2) (i) This Act comes into force on the date gazetted by the Minister for Education.
 - (ii) The Minister may declare different commencement dates for different sections of this law.

[FNU 2] Object of the Act

2 The object of this Act is to establish the Fiji National University to serve the needs of the post-secondary educational requirements for the Republic of Fiji.

[FNU 3] Interpretation the software leading to the sof

3 (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

academic staff, of the University, means-

(a) the University's teaching and research staff, other than research assistants; and

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(b) staff of the University whose instrument of appointment states they are members;

appointed member means a member of the Council appointed under section 14;
 apprentice means a person being trained under the apprenticeship scheme;
 [def insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 4, opn 29 Nov 2010]

appropriately qualified, for a delegation of a power, includes having the qualifications, experience or standing appropriate to exercise the power;

Chancellor means the chancellor of the University;

college means a college established under section 35;

conviction means a conviction other than a spent conviction;

co-opted member means a member of the Council appointed under section 16;

Council means the council of the University;

Deputy Chancellor means the deputy chancellor of the University;

elected member means a member of the Council elected under section 15;

general staff of the University, means staff of the University, other than academic staff;

higher education award means-

- (a) a degree, status, title or description of certificate, diploma, associate, bachelor, master or doctor; or
- (b) any other award, if the course of study relating to it classified as higher education under any University course or programme;

land of the University, means land and buildings owned by or under the control of the University;

Levy refers to the funds generated under the Levy Order under section 42A; [def insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 4, opn 29 Nov 2010]

Levy Order refers to the order made by the Minister under section 42A; [def insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 4, opn 29 Nov 2010]

Minister refers to the minister responsible for tertiary education in the Republic of Fiji;

National Training and Productivity Centre means the National Training and Productivity Centre established by section 35A;
[def insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 4, opn 29 Nov 2010]

official member means a person who is an official member of the Council under section 12;

Senate means the body composed under section 32;

student means a student enrolled in the University;

University means the Fiji National University;

University regulation means a University regulation made under section 40; and Vice-Chancellor means the vice-chancellor of the University.

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[FNU 4] Establishment of the University

- 4 (1) This section constitutes and founds for the communities of the Republic of Fiji and any other overseas communities that may wish to receive tertiary education, a University with the name and style of "The Fiji National University".
- (2) The University shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal by the name and style of "The Fiji National University" with power and capacity in that name to sue and be sued, to take, purchase, hold, charge, sell, exchange, demise or otherwise dispose of real and personal property, to invest, lend or borrow money, to enter into contracts, to appoint agents and attorneys, to engage consultants, to fix charges and other terms for services and other facilities it supplies and subject to this Act, to perform such other acts as by law bodies corporate that are created by law may do, and the University shall have the constitution and powers and be subject to the provisions in this Act.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), the University has the powers given to it under this Act.
 - (4) The University may exercise its powers inside or outside the Republic of Fiji.

[FNU 5] Object of the University

- 5 (1) The object of the University shall be to promote scholarship, research, free inquiry, academic excellence and trade competence and in this process create, disseminate, maintain and advance knowledge and productivity by teaching, training and other means, for the welfare and needs of the communities mentioned in 4(1) above. [subs (1) am Decree 58 of 2010 s 5, opn 29 Nov 2010]
- (2) The University shall be concerned with education and training at the post-secondary levels, including education and training at the technical and vocational levels, consistent with international standards of teaching, research and other academic activities in institutions styled as institutions of higher learning.

[FNU 6] Functions and powers of the University

- 6 (1) The University's functions are—
 - (a) to provide for, and encourage the creation, advancement and dissemination of knowledge, through scholarship, research and teaching to the standards acceptable by the Council;
 - (b) to provide courses of study or instruction, at the levels of achievement the Council considers appropriate, to meet the needs of the community, including technical and vocational education and training;
 - (c) to confer higher education awards and awards at other levels as determined by the Council;
 - (d) to provide, arrange for or regulate the appropriate training of persons or classes of persons, whether by way of apprenticeship or otherwise, to assist such persons or classes of persons in connection with employment;
 - (e) to assist and contribute towards the cost of training, and the promotion of training, of any person or class of persons;

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- (f) to participate in community discourse through the application of knowledge generated and advanced at the University to society, industry and government in an environment where the rights of all are respected;
- (g) to perform other functions given to the University under this Act or under another Act, or as determined by the Council;

[subs (1) am Decree 58 of 2010 s 6, opn 29 Nov 2010]

- (2) The University shall have the powers—
 - (a) to provide facilities, resources and institutional governance structures that ensure the integrity of the University's academic programmes and promote the well-being of the University's staff, students and other persons undertaking study and research at the University;
 - (b) to prescribe the conditions under which students and persons or categories of persons shall be admitted to the University for the purpose of pursuing any programme or course of study therein and to ensure that provision is made for the maintenance of the discipline of the students of the University;
 - (c) to appoint persons to and to remove them from such offices instituted, to prescribe the conditions of service of staff and to provide for their discipline;
 - (d) to institute professorships and other offices of any kind as the University may consider appropriate;
 - (e) to make provision for consultancy, research, design, development, testing and advisory services and for the dissemination of the same in such manner at the University may determine including entering into arrangements with other institutions, bodies or companies as the University may consider desirable;
 - (f) to affiliate, associate or cooperate with other institutions or bodies with regard to matters pertaining to the well-being of the University and other institutions as may be appropriate in particular situations;
 - (g) to enter into any agreement for the incorporation in the University of any other institution or body and for taking over the rights, properties and liabilities thereof:
 - (h) to enter into any agreement for the academic association with the University of any other institution or body;
 - (i) to establish awards such as fellowships, scholarships, prizes and other aids for study and research;
 - (j) to examine and accept where appropriate qualifications gained, examinations passed or periods of study spent at other universities and institutions as equivalent to such examinations and periods of study in the University as the University may determine;
 - (k) to grant and confer Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and other distinctions or awards of study approved by the University to those who have qualified for such grants in accordance with the requirements of the University and to confer distinctions including Honorary Degrees on approved persons, according to procedures established by the University;
 - (1) to revoke or deprive any persons of Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates or other distinctions or awards granted or conferred by the University on foundations that the University shall consider to be good cause;
 - (m) to do all such other acts and things whether incidental to the powers aforesaid or not as the University may consider being necessary or expedient in order to further its objects.

[FNU 7] Council

7 The Council of the University is hereby established.

[FNU 8] Functions of the Council

8 The Council is the University's governing body and may exercise on behalf of the University, all powers conferred on the University by this Act.

[FNU 9] Powers of the Council

- 9 The Council may do anything necessary or convenient to be done for its functions and for this purpose—
 - (a) shall have the custody, control and disposition of all property, funds, fees and investments of the University;
 - (b) shall strive to ensure that the University attains the highest standards of excellence in education, training and research;
 - (c) shall, from time to time, in respect of the University, prepare, for the approval of the Minister, a statement of objectives, including a corporate plan and proposed funding for such objectives and plan;
 - (d) shall ensure that the University is managed in accordance with the law and the general principles of good governance and transparency;
 - (e) may engage in such joint venture activities as will enable the University to improve its provision of facilities, including the provision of halls of residence, to students:
 - (f) may determine fees to be paid or charges to be levied, in respect of programmes and courses or otherwise:
 - (g) shall, for the purposes of responsible, effective and efficient use of resources, ensure that systems are established for the coordination of activities of the University and for accountability;
 - (h) shall provide for maintaining the seal of the University and make provisions for the use of the seal; and
 - (i) shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, carry out any activity as by law bodies corporate that are created by law carry out do, and do such other things as appear to the Council necessary or expedient for furthering the interests of the University.

[FNU 10] Council to promote University's interests

10 The Council must act in the way that appears to it most likely to promote the University's interests.

[FNU 11] Delegation

- 11 (1) Subject to this Act, there shall be constituted such other institutions or bodies and such committees as the Council may from time to time consider necessary or expedient for the administration of the affairs of the University.
- (2) The Council may delegate any of its powers, duties and functions to such institutions and committees or to the Vice-Chancellor of the University.
- (3) No delegation may prevent the Council from performing any of the functions or exercising any of the powers of the Council. All such delegation is revocable by will.
- (4) The Council may, subject to subsection (5) of this section, delegate its powers under this Act to—
 - (a) an appropriately qualified member of the Council; or
 - (b) an appropriately qualified committee that includes one or more members of the Council; or

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- (c) an appropriately qualified member of the University's staff.
- (5) (a) The Council may appoint such boards or committees from time to time and on such terms as it may consider fit to hold office for such terms as it deems fit to advise the Council on any matter or matters arising out of the proper discharge of its functions.
 - (b) Any such board or committee shall, in addition to any member of the Council appointed, consist of such persons who in the opinion of the Council can make a contribution to the work of that board or committee, provided that such board or committee may invite such other persons as it considers desirable to attend its meetings and give advice, but persons shall not be entitled to vote.
 - (c) In the discharge of its functions, the Council shall give due consideration to the advice or recommendations of any such board or committee.

[subs (5) insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 7, opn 29 Nov 2010]

(6) The Council may not delegate its power to make University statutes or rules. [subs (5) renum as subs (6) Decree 58 of 2010 s 7, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 12] Membership of the Council

- 12 (1) The Council consists of official members, appointed members, elected members and co-opted members.
- (2) Members of the Council and of any board or committee appointed by it shall be paid by the Council such allowances and expenses as the Minister may from time to time determine.

[subs (2) insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 8, opn 29 Nov 2010] [s 12 am Decree 58 of 2010 s 8, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 13] Official members

- 13 (1) There shall be 4 official members.
- (2) The official members are—
 - (a) the Chancellor
 - (b) the Deputy Chancellor;
 - (c) the Vice-Chancellor; and
 - (d) the permanent secretary responsible for tertiary education.
- (3) The official members shall hold office for so long as they continue to occupy the positions by virtue of which they became members.

[The next page is 780,421]

[FNU 14] Appointed members

- 14 (1) There shall be 10 members appointed by the Minister in consultation with the official members, from lists of nominees submitted by the Fiji Institute of Engineers, Fiji Institute of Valuers, Fiji Institute of Accountants, Fiji Hotel Association, Fiji Medical Association, Chamber of Commerce, Fiji Law Society, Fiji Institute of Applied Studies, Fiji Principals Association and Fiji Nurses, Midwives and Nurses Practitioners Board.
- (2) There shall be 2 members appointed by the Minister from a list of nominees submitted by the national employer bodies.

 [subs (2) insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 9, opn 29 Nov 2010]
- (3) There shall be 2 members appointed by the Minister from a list of nominees submitted by the registered trade union confederations.
- [subs (3) insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 9, opn 29 Nov 2010]

 (4) The Minister shall call for a list of nominees from each group mentioned in subsection 14(1) to 14(3) prior to appointments.

[subs (2) am and renum as subs (4) Decree 58 of 2010 s 9, opn 29 Nov 2010]

(5) The term of the appointed members of the Council shall be 3 years. [subs (3) renum as subs (5) Decree 58 of 2010 s 9, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 15] Elected members

15 (1) There shall be 8 elected members, comprising—

- (a) 2 heads of the University's colleges, elected by all the heads of the colleges;
- (b) 2 members of the University's full-time professorial staff;
- (c) 2 members of the University's full-time non-professorial academic staff; and
- (d) 2 representatives of the University's full-time students, other than persons eligible for membership under paragraph (a) or (b).
- (2) Each elected member is to be elected by a ballot, at which-
 - (a) for elected members mentioned in subsection (1)(a) all the members of the full-time professorial staff may vote; or
 - (b) for elected members mentioned in subsection (1)(b) all the members, of the full-time academic staff may vote; or
 - (c) for elected members mentioned in subsection (1)(c); and (d) all the full-time students may vote.
- (3) The term of elected members under subsection (1)(a) and (1)(b) shall be 3 years and for the elected members under subsection (1)(c) and (1)(d) shall be one year, from the first scheduled meeting after the date of election. An elected member may be re-elected for subsequent periods.

[FNU 16] Co-opted members

- 16 (1) There shall be up to 6 co-opted members who must not be students or full-time members of the University's academic or general staff, but who shall be persons of commercial, academic and professional eminence.
- (2) Co-opted members shall have the same rights and privileges as official, appointed or elected members.
- (3) The term of co-opted members of the Council shall be 3 years from the first scheduled meeting after the date of appointment. The term of a co-opted member may be renewed by the Council for a maximum of 2 additional terms.

[FNU 17] Failure to make nominations in accordance to section 14(2)

17 If an entity empowered to make nominations to the Minister under section 14(2) does not make any nomination by the date fixed by the Minister by a reminder letter given

to the entity, the Minister, in consultation with the Council, may appoint to the Council any member of the entity in place of the nominated member.

[FNU 18] Failure to elect elected members

18 If a group permitted to elect elected members under section 15(2) does not elect any or enough persons or elected members by a date fixed by the Council by written notice given to the group, the Minister, on the advice of the Council, may appoint equal number of such members.

[FNU 19] Dealing with casual vacancy

- 19 (1) If a casual vacancy arises in the office of an appointed member, the Minister shall appoint a replacement from the list of nominees called by the Minister from the group from which the departing member was appointed.
- (2) If a casual vacancy arises in the office of an elected member and the elected member was elected by a ballot under section 15(2), the Council must appoint to the office the one person, if any, who received the highest number of votes of all the candidates who were not elected if the candidate is willing to perform the functions of a member.
- (3) A person appointed or elected to fill a casual vacancy in the office of a member is appointed or elected for the balance of the term of office of the person's predecessor.

[FNU 20] Ineligibility for membership of Council

- 20 A person is not eligible to become a co-opted, appointed or elected member if—
 - (a) the person was duly declared bankrupt by the courts, or
 - (b) the person has been duly convicted and jailed for a period exceeding 9 months.

[FNU 21] Vacation of office

- 21 The office of an appointed, elected or co-opted member becomes vacant, if—
 - (a) the member dies; or
 - (b) for the co-opted or elected member the member ceases to be an eligible person for the entity that elected or appointed the person; or
 - (c) the member is absent without the Council's leave and without reasonable excuse from every meeting of the Council in a period of 9 months; or
 - (d) the member becomes an official member; or
 - (e) the member resigns from office by signed written notice given to the appointing authority if an appointed member or to the chairperson of the Council if an elected or a co-opted member, or
 - (f) the member is removed from office under section 23.

[FNU 22] Members function and obligations

- 22 (1) A member has the function of ensuring the Council performs its functions and exercises its powers appropriately, effectively and efficiently.
 - (2) In performing the function, a member is obliged to each of the following—
 - (a) act honestly and in the best interests of the University;
 - (b) exercise reasonable skill, care and diligence;
 - (c) disclose to the Council any conflict that may arise between the member's personal interests and the interests of the University;

- (d) not make improper use of his or her position as a member, or of information acquired because of his or her position as a member, to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for the member or another person.
- (3) All members of the Council and of any board or committee appointed by the Council, shall fully declare to the Council any financial or other interest with which they may at any time directly or indirectly be connected and shall, unless the Council so decides, refrain from voting at meetings of the Council or of such board or committee on any matter related thereto provided that such interest, if so declared, shall not disqualify such member for the purpose of constituting a quorum.

 [subs (3) insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 10, opn 29 Nov 2010]
- (4) Any member of the Council or of a board or committee thereof and any employee of the Council who discloses any material information acquired in the course of his or her obligations under this Act (other than as lawfully required to do so) commits an offence. [subs (4) insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 10, opn 29 Nov 2010] [s 22 am Decree 58 of 2010 s 3, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 23] Council may remove a member from office

- 23 (1) Any member of the Council, other than the members of the staff of the University, may be removed from office by the Council for good cause.
 - (2) "Good cause" when used in reference to removal from office means—
 - (a) the member has not complied with section 22(2);
 - (b) conviction for any offence which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit for the execution of the duties of his or her office; or
 - (c) any physical or mental incapacity which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his or her office or
 - (d) conduct of a nature which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his or her office; or
 - (e) conduct which the Council considers to be such as to constitute failure or inability of the person concerned to perform the duties of his or her office or to comply with the conditions of his or her office.
- (3) To remove a person as a member of the Council, a two-thirds majority of the Council members should agree to the removal in a duly constituted meeting called where the removal of the member is listed as an agenda item and where the member is given a reasonable opportunity to be heard by the Council before the vote on the matter.
- (4) If the Council decides to remove a member from office under subsection (3), the Council must as soon as practicable but no later than 14 days from the date of the decision, inform the appointing authority if the member was an appointed member, or the body electing the member if the member was an elected member.

[FNU 24] Meetings of the Council

24 (1) The Chancellor must preside at meetings of the Council. In the absence of the Chancellor from a meeting of the Council or if the office is vacant, the Deputy Chancellor shall preside at the meeting. If both, the Chancellor and the Deputy Chancellor are absent from a meeting of the Council, or the offices are vacant, the members present must elect a member to preside at the meeting.

[FNU 25] Conduct of meetings

25 (1) A quorum exists at a meeting of the Council if at least half its members, of which at least 2 shall be official members, at least 5 shall be appointed members and at least 2 shall be elected members, are present.

- (2) The Council may otherwise regulate its proceedings as it considers appropriate.
- (3) No decision of the Council or act done in pursuance to section 25(1) and (2) shall be invalid by reason of vacancy in the office of a member of the Council or on the ground of any defect in the election, nomination or appointment of any such member.

[FNU 26] Protection of members of the Council

- 26 (1) No action, suit or other proceeding shall be instituted against any member of the Council personally in respect of any act done in good faith or made by the member in execution or intended execution of any function of the Council under this Act.
- (2) Where a member of the Council is exempt from liability for an act or omission by reason only of subsection (1), the Council shall be liable for the act or omission to the extent that it would be if the member were the Council's employee or agent.

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PART 3 — OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

[FNU 27] Members of the University

- 27 The following persons shall be members of the University—
 - (a) the Chancellor, the Deputy Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor;
 - (b) the members of the Council;
 - (c) the members of the Senate;
 - (d) the members of the academic staff;
 - (e) such administrative and technical staff as the Council may determine;
 - (f) the graduates of the University;
 - (g) the students of the University.

[FNU 28] The Chancellor

- 28 (1) There shall be a Chancellor of the University who shall be the chairperson of the University Council.
- (2) The Chancellor shall be appointed by the Minister, in consultation with the Council, and shall hold office for terms of up to 3 years. The Chancellor shall be eligible for reappointment, but shall not hold office for more than 3 consecutive terms.

[FNU 29] The Deputy Chancellor

- 29 (1) There shall be a Deputy Chancellor of the University, who shall be appointed by the Council.
- (2) The Deputy Chancellor shall hold office for a period of 3 years. The Deputy Chancellor shall be eligible for reappointment, but shall not hold office for more than 3 consecutive terms.
- (3) If a person who is not a member of the Council is appointed to be the Deputy Chancellor, he or she shall on appointment become a member of the Council.
 - (4) The Deputy Chancellor shall be the vice-chairperson of the University Council.

[FNU 30] The Vice-Chancellor

- 30 (1) The Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Council and shall hold office for such period and under such terms and conditions as the Council may determine.
- (2) The Vice-Chancellor is the chief executive officer of the University and may exercise the powers and perform the functions conferred on the Vice-Chancellor by this Act or another Act or by the Council. The Vice-Chancellor shall have a general responsibility to the Council for managing the University, and for maintaining and promoting the efficiency and good order of the University. He or she shall make a report annually to the Council on the working of the University.
- (3) Subject to the directions of the Council, for the purposes of carrying out the daily functions of the Council under this Act, the Vice-Chancellor has the power to appoint, discipline, suspend or dismiss staff based on reasonable grounds.
- (4) The Vice-Chancellor shall be empowered to draw up regulations in the interest of good governance, ethical standards and good name of the University in situations of emergencies, and take action on behalf of the University Council that is urgent in nature.

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- (5) The Vice-Chancellor may delegate powers of the Vice-Chancellor under this Act or another Act to an appropriately qualified member of the University's staff.
- (6) The Vice-Chancellor may resign by giving due written notice to the Council as stipulated in his or her terms and conditions of employment.

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[FNU 31] Other officers and a resolution of the second sec

31 The Council must ensure that policies are put in place to appoint such other officers as necessary for efficient functioning of the University, including, but not restricted to, the appointment of an officer with responsibility for ensuring at all times an appropriate balance between academic education and technical or vocational education and training.

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[FNU 32] Establishment of the University Senate

- 32 (1) This section establishes the University Senate.
- (2) Subject to the powers, duties and functions of the Council as provided in this Act, the Senate shall be responsible for the teaching, research and other academic work of the University and for the regulation and superintendence of the education, training and discipline of the students of the University.
 - (3) The Senate must—
- (a) advise the Council about teaching, scholarship and research matters concerning the University;
 - (b) formulate proposals for the academic policies of the University;
 - (c) monitor the academic activities of the University; and
 - (d) promote and encourage scholarship and research at the University.
- (4) The Senate may establish academic boards for colleges, faculties and schools to regulate the academic affairs of the respective college, faculty and school, and to advise the Senate on academic affairs of the colleges, faculties and schools.
- (5) The membership of the Senate shall be as approved by the Council on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor, but shall, in all cases, include—
 - (a) the Vice-Chancellor;
 - (b) all officers of the University responsible for academic affairs of the University who are above the rank of a head of a college;
 - (c) all heads of the University's colleges, faculties, schools, and centres and institutes and heads of the sections delivering the training, apprenticeship, trade testing and productivity programmes formally appointed at the National Training and Productivity Centre;
 - (d) a number, to be determined by the Council periodically, of professors of the University to be elected by the full-time professorial staff of the University on a biennial basis:
 - (e) the University librarian;
 - (f) 2 non-professorial members of the full-time academic staff elected by the full-time academic staff of the University on a biennial basis;
 - (g) 2 student representatives elected from amongst the community of full-time University students by the full-time students of the University on a biennial basis;
 - (h) the officer responsible for the administration of the Academic Office of the University.

[subs (5) am Decree 58 of 2010 s 11, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 33] Chairperson of the Senate

33 The Senate shall be chaired by the Vice-Chancellor.

[FNU 34] Establishment of colleges etc

34 (1) The Council may establish such colleges, faculties, schools and institutes of the University as are necessary to achieve the objects of the University.

- (2) The Council may affiliate existing or new colleges or academic institutions with the University by resolution.
- (3) The Council may establish an advisory board for each college, faculty, school, centre or institute and determine the membership and functions of the respective Boards. [subs (3) am Decree 58 of 2010 s 12, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 35] Academic structure of the University

- 35 (1) There shall be faculties and/or divisions and/or colleges in the University as the Council shall approve.
- (2) The Senate shall determine from time to time the composition of each school or faculty or division or college and its academic and administrative organisation.
- (3) There shall be such institutes and centres of the University as the Council after consultation with the Senate shall from time to time determine.
- (4) There may be such other academic units as the Senate shall from time to time determine.

[FNU 35A] Establishment of a National Training and Productivity Centre

- 35A (1) There shall be a National Training and Productivity Centre at the University.
- (2) The functions of the National Training and Productivity Centre shall be to-
 - (a) ensure that the in-service training needs of industries in Fiji is met at all times;
 - (b) manage a quality apprenticeship system in Fiji;
 - (c) promote productivity and business excellence programmes in industry and act as the National Productivity Organisation for Fiji on behalf of the Government;
 - (d) be responsible for training grants within the budgetary provisions and financial policies of the University;
 - (e) carry out such trade tests as are necessary for fulfilling the objective of training for national development; and
 - (f) carry out such other responsibilities relating to industry training needs as are delegated to the National Centre by the Senate or the Vice-Chancellor.
- (3) The Council shall establish a Board of the National Centre that shall consider and advise the Council on industry training needs.
 - (4) The Board shall comprise—
 - (a) 3 members representing the employers, of which 2 are appointed by the Minister under section 14(2) and one appointed by the Council;
 - (b) 3 members representing the employees of which 2 are appointed by the Minister under section 14(3); and
- (c) 3 members representing the Government appointed by the Minister. [s 35A insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 13, opn 29 Nov 2010]

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PART 5 — UNIVERSITY FINANCES

[FNU 36] Funds of the University

- 36 (1) The funds of the University shall consist of—
 - (a) moneys appropriated by Parliament to finance the University;
 - (b) moneys earned by the University through fees, fines and charges, and in consequence of its entrepreneurial activities;
 - (c) monies earned by the University through the implementation of the Levy Order;
 - (d) donations or contributions from any source;
 - (e) moneys borrowed by the University; and
 - (f) interest on investments.

[subs (1) am Decree 58 of 2010 s 14, opn 29 Nov 2010]

(2) The Vice-Chancellor shall be the accounting officer for the University.

[FNU 37] Budget

- 37 (1) The Council shall, in each year, adopt a budget for the University for the next year.
- (2) The Council shall ensure that the University operates within its budget, and under no circumstance becomes insolvent or financially paralysed.
- (3) The funds collected under the Levy Order shall be used primarily for in-service training of employees of levy-payers, managing apprenticeship schemes, trade testing, productivity promotion and education and training in the national interest.

 [subs (3) insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 15, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 38] University's financial year

38 The University's financial year is a calendar year.

[FNU 39] Auditing of accounts and annual reports

- 39 (1) The Council shall cause proper accounts of the financial affairs of the University to be maintained and has the power to appoint an auditor to carry out an annual auditing of its accounts and other financial statements.
- (2) The Council shall prepare an annual report of the University for its operations for the preceding year and shall submit the report, including its audited accounts, to the Minister before 30 June in each year.
- (3) The Minister shall, as soon as practicable after receiving the report of the Council, lay such report before Parliament.

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PART 6 — MISCELLANEOUS

[FNU 40] Making of University regulations

40 Subject to the provisions of this Act and any other law in Fiji, the Council may make regulations for the efficient management and good governance of the academic, administrative and financial affairs of the University.

[FNU 40A] Regulations

40A The Minister on the advice of the Council may make regulations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

[s 40A insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 16, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 41] Non-discrimination

41 No person shall be discriminated against based on his or her religion, ethnic, gender or political alliance, to prevent such person from being entitled to be admitted as a member, professor, teacher or student of the University, or to hold office therein, or to graduate or to hold any advantage or privilege attached.

[FNU 42] Academic freedom

- **42** (1) The Council must ensure that academic freedom is preserved and enhanced at the University.
- (2) "Academic freedom" means the freedom of the University, within the law, including the best traditions of the academia and the highest ethical standards—
 - (a) to employ and to determine the terms and conditions of its staff;
 - (b) for the University to regulate the content of subjects taught at the University, and to determine the mode of teaching and assessment that best promotes learning; and
 - (c) for staff and students to question and test received wisdom, to put forward new ideas and to state controversial or unpopular opinions within the best traditions of advancing such ideas, and to engage in research and publication.
- (3) In the performance of their functions, the Council and management of the University, as well as policy, and authorities and agents of the State, shall always act in ways that are consistent with promoting academic freedom at the University.

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PART 7 — LEVY ORDER AND APPRENTICES

[Pt 7 insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 17, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 42A] Levy Order

- 42A (1) The Minister may, from time to time, after consultation with the Council make, in such form and containing such details (including provisions for the payment of interest) as he or she may determine, a Levy Order imposing a Levy on any employer or class of employers and the amount payable under any such Levy Order shall be paid to the Council at the time and in the manner specified in such Levy Order, and a Levy Order may make different provisions in relation to different classes of employers.
- (2) The Minister may from time to time, after consultation with the Council, revoke or amend a Levy Order.
- (3) The Council shall ensure that the University always has in place an effective system for collecting the amount payable under a Levy Order.
- (4) The amount payable under a Levy Order shall be deemed to be a simple contract debt due from the employer and shall be recoverable accordingly by the Council in any court.
 - (5) Proceedings under subsection (4) may be instituted by-

(a) the Vice-Chancellor; or

(b) by any servant or agent of the Council authorised by the Vice-Chancellor in writing for that purpose—

and the Vice-Chancellor or any such servant or agent may conduct proceedings whether or not he or she was the person instituting them.

(6) Any employer who fails to pay to the Council any amount payable as a Levy Order at the time and in the manner specified is guilty of an offence.

[5 42A insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 18, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 42B] Consequences upon failure to comply with the Levy Order

- 42B (1) The Council may require an employer or class of employers to furnish such returns, provide such information and keep such records as shall be approved by it to produce them for inspection by or on behalf of the Council to enable it carry out its functions under this Act.
- (2) Any employer who refuses or fails to comply without reasonable cause with any requirement of the Council made under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) Any employer who—

- (a) knowingly or recklessly furnishes, in pursuance of any requirement made under subsection (1), any return, information or record which is false in a material particular; or
 - (b) wilfully makes a false entry in any record required to be produced and kept under the provisions of this Act or, with intent to deceive, makes use of any such entry which he or she knows to be false;

is guilty of an offence.

(4) Where an offence has been committed under the provisions of subsection (3) by an employer (other than the Government) being a body corporate, every officer, including any director, manager, secretary or other servant and any other person purporting to act in

such capacity of the employer, who knowingly and wilfully authorised or permitted the contravention mentioned in this section shall, in addition to the employer, be guilty of an offence and on conviction liable to the same fine.

(5) Where an offence has been committed under the provisions of subsection (3) by an employer being the Government, every public officer who furnishes the returns, provides the information or keeps the records required by subsection (1), or any person or persons purporting to do so, who knowingly and wilfully authorised or permitted the contravention mentioned in this section is guilty of an offence.

[s 42B insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 19, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 42C] Apprenticeship and training

42C The Minister may after consultation with the Council make orders, known as Training Orders regulating the employment, training and minimum remuneration of apprentices in any particular trade or occupation and prescribing forms, fees, matters and things which are required, permitted or contemplated by this Part to be prescribed which appear to the Minister to be necessary or convenient for the purpose of more effectively carrying out the objects and operation of this Part.

[s 42C insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 20, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 42D] Apprentices

- 42D (1) Any apprentice in any particular trade or occupation shall, notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary, be deemed to be employed under an agreement made between the Vice-Chancellor or his or her nominee on behalf of the Council and—
 - (a) the apprentice or (if he or she is under 18 years of age) a parent, guardian or a person in *loco parentis* to him or her; and
 - (b) the employer whereby the employer agrees to employ the apprentice, and the apprentice agrees to serve the employer, for the period of training specified in the rules.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), the Council may where appropriate—
 - (a) release any employer or apprentice from their respective obligations to each other; or
 - (b) transfer the benefits and obligations of the employer under any apprenticeship agreement to another employer who is willing to undertake them.

[s 42D insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 21, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 42E] Arrangements where apprentice not engaged

42E The Council may make such arrangements as it thinks proper for safeguarding the continued training of any apprentice if such person is not, for any reason other than his or her own wilful default, engaged in employment in his or her particular trade or occupation.

[s 42E insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 22, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 42F] Exemptions

42F The Council may, if it deems it necessary in any particular case, in regard to the employment of an apprentice, exempt any person from any of the provisions of any rule, order or regulation made by the Council thereunder.

[s 42F insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 23, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 42G] Training Orders for other persons

42G The Minister may, after consultation with the Council from time to time make orders known as Training Orders in relation to or regulating the employment and training of persons other than apprentices, and may make rules prescribing forms, fees, matters and things which appear to the Minister to be necessary or convenient for the purpose of more effectively carrying out the objects and operation of this Part.

[s 42G insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 24, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 42H] Obstruction

42H Any person who does any act or thing for the purpose either of preventing or obstructing the Council, or any employer from carrying out any arrangement made by the Council under the provisions of this Act is guilty of an offence.

[s 42h insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 25, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 42I] Authorised officers

- 42I (1) The University may appoint such persons as it thinks necessary, to be authorised officers for all or any of the purposes of this Part.
 - (2) An authorised officer may—
 - (a) at any reasonable time enter any premises in which he or she has reasonable cause to believe a particular trade or occupation is carried out, or where any apprentice is or has within the previous 6 months been or is believed to have been employed and examine the methods used on such premises in the training of apprentices and give advice in such training;
 - (b) with respect to matters under section 21, examine any person whom he or she finds on premises entered under the provisions of paragraph (a) and any apprentice and require any such person or apprentice to appear before him or her at a reasonable time and place and to answer such questions as he or she may put touching such matters, provided that no person shall be required by virtue of this subsection to answer any questions or to give any evidence tending to incriminate himself or herself;
 - (c) at any reasonable time enter any premises and examine the methods used in the training of any person whom he or she finds employed in a trade or occupation the subject of a training order made under the provisions of section 25 and give advice in such training;
 - (d) require the production or delivery up of any of the records required to be kept by an employer by or under the provisions of this Act or of any orders or regulations made thereunder, and to examine and make extracts from, and copies of, any such records.
- (3) An authorised officer may, by notice in writing served on any employer, or in respect of whom a Levy Order has been made or carrying on a designated trade or occupation or having a person in training or employing an apprentice, require him or her to keep and to furnish to him or her within a time or times and in a manner to be specified, such report or particulars as shall be specified with respect to the persons or any apprentice employed by him or her.
- (4) An authorised officer shall be supplied by the Council with a certificate of his or her appointment and when exercising or seeking to exercise any of the powers lawfully conferred on him or her shall produce the certificate on demand.
 - (5) Any person who-

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- (a) refuses or fails to comply without reasonable cause with any requirement made by an authorised officer under the provisions of this Act; or
- (b) obstructs or hinders an authorised officer in the exercise of his or her powers The table under the provisions of this Act, the table was a restricted as a second control of the is guilty of an offence: were and a secretary to all writing as we assign which are all and

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FNU 42J **Penalties**

Any person who commits an offence under this Part is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or both. [s 42J insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 27, opn 29 Nov 2010; am Act 31 of 2016 s 193, opn 1 Dec 2016]

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PART 8 — TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

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[FNU 43] Operation of the Fiji University Constituent Institutions to commencement date

- 43 (1) The Fiji School of Medicine Act 1997 and Fiji Institute of Technology Act 2006 shall be deemed to be repealed on the commencement date of this Act.
- (2) Any term or condition of appointment of a member of the Council or Board of the Fiji Institute of Technology and the Fiji School of Medicine, and any appointment made to any committee or subcommittee of the Fiji Institute of Technology Council or the Fiji School of Medicine Council, shall be deemed to lapse on the commencement date of this Act.
- (3) This Act deems the academic and administrative decisions made by the Councils of the Fiji Institute of Technology and the Fiji School of Medicine to the commencement date of this Act, as made under the provisions of this Act to the extent that the decisions are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act or do not undermine the decision making powers conferred on the Council, the Senate or other officers of the University established under this Act.

[FNU:44] DaAssets and diabilities of addition reasons are not one of the

- 44 Within one year after the commencement date—
 - (a) the assets and liabilities of the Fiji Institute of Technology, Fiji School of Medicine, Fiji School of Nursing, the Fiji College of Agriculture, the Fiji College of Advanced Education and the Lautoka Teachers College shall be vested as the assets and liabilities of the Fiji National University;

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(b) the transfer of all leases on which the Fiji Institute of Technology, Fiji School of Medicine, Fiji School of Nursing, the Fiji College of Agriculture, the Fiji College of Advanced Education and the Lautoka Teachers College shall be deemed to have taken place without any compensation to be paid to the constituent institution.

[FNU 45] Contracts

45 Any contracts, all guarantees, undertakings and securities entered into by or on behalf of the Fiji Institute of Technology, Fiji School of Medicine, Fiji School of Nursing, Fiji College of Agriculture, the Fiji College of Advanced Education and the Lautoka Teachers College immediately before the commencement date, are taken to have been entered into or given by or to the Fiji National University and may be enforced against or by the Fiji National University.

[FNU 46] Staff rights and entitlements

46 (1) On the commencement date, all tenured/permanent employees of the Fiji Institute of Technology, Fiji School of Medicine, Fiji School of Nursing, the Fiji College of Agriculture, the Fiji College of Advanced Education and the Lautoka Teachers College shall be deemed to be employed by the Fiji National University on the same terms and conditions on which each such person was employed prior to the commencement date.

- (2) On the commencement date, all contracted employees of the Fiji Institute of Technology, Fiji School of Medicine, Fiji School of Nursing, the Fiji College of Agriculture, the Fiji College of Advanced Education and the Lautoka Teachers College shall be deemed to be employed by the University for the balance of their contractual terms on the same terms and conditions on which the person was employed by the former entity, and thereafter, to be employed under the terms and conditions of employment of the University.
- (3) All rights, including leave entitlements, accrued or accruing to the person as a staff member of the former entity up to the commencement date, shall be maintained by the staff after the commencement date if at the commencement date, the staff member of the former entity chooses to maintain employment with the University.
- (4) Section 46(1) to (3) are valid to the extent that there is no change in terms and conditions of any category of staff, including leave entitlements, that are outside the respective institution's budgetary and financial provisions, or that are designed to take advantage of the merger of the institutions.
- (5) The Minister may give policy directives to the Council, as he or she deems necessary, in relation to the terms and conditions of employment of the staff of the Fiji Institute of Technology, Fiji School of Medicine, Fiji School of Nursing, the Fiji College of Agriculture, the Fiji College of Advanced Education and the Lautoka Teachers College on the commencement date of the University.

[FNU 46A] Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji

- **46A** (1) At the commencement of this Act any reference in any written law to Fiji National Training Council or Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji or Authority in its context is for all purposes deemed to be replaced and read as a reference to the Fiji National University.
- (2) All real and personal property which immediately before the commencement of this Act was vested in or belonged to the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji, without conveyance, transfer or assignment and, subject to this Act, becomes the property of the University.
- (3) The Registrar of Titles or any person responsible for the keeping of any register under any written law must, on the written request of the University and on payment of the appropriate fee, make entries in the register and on any outstanding documents of title and generally do all things necessary to give effect to this Act.
- (4) At the commencement of this Act, all contracts, guarantees, undertakings and securities entered into by or on behalf of the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji immediately before the commencement date, is taken to have been entered into or given by or to the University and may be enforced against or by the University.
- (5) This Act deems the decisions made by the Councils of the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji prior to the commencement of this Act, as being made under the provisions of the Fiji National University Act 2009 to the extent that the decisions are not inconsistent with the provisions of the Fiji National University Act 2009 and do not undermine the decision making powers conferred on the Council, the Senate or other offices of the University established under the Fiji National University Act 2009.
- (6) On the commencement date, all tenured or permanent employees of the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji shall be deemed to be employed by the University on the same terms and conditions on which each such person was employed prior to the commencement of this Act.
- (7) At the commencement of this Act, all contracted employees of the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji shall be deemed to be employed by the University for the

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balance of their contractual terms on the same terms and conditions on which the person was employed by the former entity, and thereafter, to be employed under the terms and conditions of employment of the University.

- (8) All rights, including leave entitlements, accrued or accruing to the person as a staff member of the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji up to the commencement date, shall be retained by the staff member after the commencement of this Act.
- (9) Section 46A(6) to (8) are valid to the extent that there is no change in terms and conditions of any category of staff member, including leave entitlements, which is outside the respective institution's budgetary and financial provisions, or that are designed to take advantage of the merger of the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji with the University.
- (10) The Minister may before or after the commencement of this Act give policy directives to the Council as he or she deems necessary in relation to the terms and conditions of employment of the staff of the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji at the commencement of this Act.
- (11) All subsidiary laws of the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji Act 2002 are hereby deemed, in context, to become the subsidiary laws of the Fiji National University (Amendment) Act 2010 mutatis mutandis.

[s 46A insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 29, opn 29 Nov 2010]

[FNU 47] Transitory Council

- 47 (1) During the period from the commencement date up until December 2011, the Minister may appoint a Transitory Council of the University that may consist of—
 - (i) the members of the Interim Council to deal with the establishment of the Fiji National University;
 - (ii) the Industry and Institutional representatives on the Councils appointed under the Fiji Institute of Technology Act 2006 and Fiji School of Medicine Act 1997;
 - (iii) the ministerial representatives on the Councils appointed under the Fiji Institute of Technology Act 2006 and Fiji School of Medicine Act 1997;
 - (iv) the members of the Council of the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji appointed under section 4 of the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji Act 2002; and
 - (v) any other person or persons that the Minister may determine to be appointed as members.

[subs (1) am Decree 58 of 2010 s 30, opn 29 Nov 2010]

(2) The Transitory Council shall appoint its own chairperson, and determine the procedures for the conduct of its activities.

[FNU 47A] Repeals

47A The Training and Productivity Authority Act 2002 is repealed on the commencement of this Act.

[s 47A insrt Decree 58 of 2010 s 31, opn 29 Nov 2010]

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