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Press Release

Staff attend University Information Management System (UIMS) training

Suva, Fiji Islands. Senior support staff from various sections including Academic, Finance, ICT and Colleges attended a three-hour introductory workshop conducted by representatives from Ellucian regarding the new University Information Management System (UIMS).

Ellucian is the world's leading software student and student finance information system management vendor for universities and vocational colleges.

Ellucian has 2,400 customers in over 40 countries, including Fiji, where they have a 27-year relationship with the University of South Pacific. More than 2400 higher education institutions use Ellucian's software solutions.

The University Information Management System (UIMS) is an integrated system which will include all Institutional Administrative Systems, Student Services and Timetabling Service.

The UIMS will integrate with other systems such as Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), financial system, student portal and communications platform thus providing a holistic service to students, staff and all stakeholders.

The project has 2 major components. First is the Student Management System (SMS). The project will cover the entire student lifecycle management from including Application, Enrolment, Course and program management, Graduation and Alumni.

The second component is the implementation of support systems which are Finance, HR, Student Accommodation and Business Intelligence. The entire project is estimated to be complete in 24 months.

This project is focused on providing the best experience for students as they enrol and progress through their studies. This new software-based system will enable our staff to manage all the associated administrative functions efficiently.

Currently the Fiji National University (FNU) uses three separate Student Management Systems that were developed around 2007. While the software has been efficient, there is a need for an upgrade as it has limitations.

Benefits of the New UIMS:

Student - Consolidated and integrated platform will build a service-oriented architecture for student self-service. Deliverable of Students Services will be unique, students track and monitor application, enrollment, program progress and frequently collaborate with academics. The system will provide anywhere, anytime access through various platforms like phones, tablets and desktop for students.

Support Professionals Staff - One common Platform will provide Users with real-time integration and reporting intelligence. More rich functionalities and access to process and systems through various platforms. More Self Services and common process centred system.

Academics - Curriculum Management provides real-time data for academic planning, studies plan and graduation. Support Real-time academic interaction with students and improve Student and Academics engagement.

External Stakeholder - Integration tools and ready-made API will give capacity to external stakeholders to access information for regulatory and compliance purpose.

Integrated and Consolidated Platform - Moving towards having a common platform of systems, process and application. This platform will provide uniformity and structure to all existing systems process and support.

Smart Study - To ease students' access to campus life, course registration, financial aid information, and communications with advisors, faculty and staff, every interaction is faster and easier, with less time wasted and more time saved for academic achievement through the use of multiple platforms like phones, laptops and iPad.

Inimitable Student and Staff Experience - Use technology, systems, deliver better services, and provide a better user experience for faculty, students and staff.

Intelligence and Decision - Reliability and accurate Information is power to ensure FNU stakeholders are empowered and have the right information to make informed decisions.

Transformation and Digitization

Work towards process standardization & improve turnaround timeframe. Automating & computerization of all systems and jobs for better ease and accessibility.

Security and Governance - Safeguard information is consistent with applicable laws and regulations through adherence to policies and internal controls for the university.

Innovate and Efficiency - Enable innovation, empowering users to promote self-service and achieve process proficiency.

Adopt and Adapt - Follow and use best industry practice systems process. This will be implemented in conjunction with workflow to automate all processes with measurement and escalation of turnaround time-frame.

Speaking earlier last month, FNU Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey said this investment is an important step in the exciting journey of the many projects currently underway in the pursuit to improve University experience for the students.

Professor Healey said this new venture gives the University the opportunity to leapfrog and get into the list of the best in the world.

“When you invest into University software like this, it’s a one in a 20 year purchase. It’s a major investment and we had to get it right and I must congratulate all the staff who have worked through the selection process in determining what our requirements are,” said Professor Healey.

“It’s going to be a lot of hard work in the next couple of years but it will be worth it because we are constantly trying our best that our students get gold plated service and at the same time we get access to useful information for decision making.”

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About the Fiji National University: The Fiji National University (FNU) was established through the merger of 7 government-owned tertiary institutions in Fiji, and commenced operations from 1 January 2010. The constituent institutions are found at over 40 different locations across Fiji, and collectively offer Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Degrees, Postgraduate qualifications and Skills Upgrading for those who are already in employment. Approximately 30,000 students pass through the University each year. Over the last six years of its operations, the University has registered major achievements with regard to new programme delivery, quality improvements and contribution to research and publications via its 5 Colleges: The College of Humanities & Education (CHE), the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS), the College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST), the College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (CAFF), the College of Business, Hospitality & Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and the National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC).