



# The University of Fiji



Annual  
Report

2020

*Celebrating 15 Years*

The People's University  
[www.unifiji.ac.fj](http://www.unifiji.ac.fj)



# Report Objectives

The Annual Report provides information for Government, students, staff and the local and international communities. The Report summarises The University of Fiji's achievement in 2020 and outlines the University's financial position as at 31 December 2020. It reviews activities against our strategic objectives, highlights key milestones reached and immediate priorities for 2021 and onwards.

# About The University of Fiji

The University of Fiji was established in December 2004 by the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji and opened its doors to students in 2005. The University has two Campuses and five academic schools; School of Business and Economics (SoBE), School of Humanities and Arts (SoHA), Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law (JDPSoL), School of Science and Technology (SoST) and Umanand Prasad School of Medicine & Health Sciences (UPSM&HS).

The University also has Centres of Excellence devoted to Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (CCEESD), Centre of iTaukei Studies (CIS), Institute of Human Rights Research and Institute of Hindi Language & Culture Studies.

The University (UniFiji) is a recognized provider of higher education in Fiji and is governed by a Council comprising of leading education stakeholders in Fiji, as well as prominent community and business leaders. The University's development is being funded by the sponsor, the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji, a body that has operated in the country for more than a century providing quality primary, secondary and religious education.

The Fijian Government has also been very generous in providing grants to the University and scholarships/loans through the Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board (TSLB).

## VISION

The University of Fiji will gain international recognition for academic excellence in its production of new knowledge and innovation through its transformative impact on society.

## MISSION

- To provide lifelong learning opportunities to all through a student-friendly environment with creative thinking and innovative values to advance knowledge-based development.
- To offer quality, research-based, relevant, disciplinary, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary learning and teaching to provide new knowledge and innovation in problem-solving.
- To create and advance public engagement with the local community, industry, governmental agencies, and international bodies for collaborative and partnership-type research projects and research-based education.
- To value academic freedom and foster UniFiji's role as a critic and conscience of society.
- To be a model employer, showing respect to staff and promoting their welfare and development.
- To strive for the best possible international governance practices to enhance transparency and accountability in policy formulation and implementation on academia, finance, human resources, information technology services, local and international student experience, and facilities.



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## Purpose

*The Council is the governing body of the University and exercises general oversight over the institution and its affairs.*

## Membership

**Ex-Officio Members - Section 13(1) of UniFiji Act 2011**

**The Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council - Section 13(1)(a)**

Ambassador Kamlesh Arya, OF 'Arya Ratna'

**The Vice-Chancellor - Section 13(1)(b)**

Professor Shaista Shameem (Acting)

**15 Appointed Members - Section 13(2) of UniFiji Act**

**Appointed by the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji (seven members) - Section 13(2)(a) of the Act**

Pt Bhuwan Dutt, OF 'Arya Ratna'

Mr Arun Padarath

Mr Jagdish Chand

Mr Parnesh Sharma

Mr Ravindra Varman

Mr Chandar Sen

Mr Balwant Singh

**Appointed by the stakeholders involved in the provision of post-primary education in Fiji (six members or any such number of persons deemed necessary) - Section 13(2)(b) of the Act:**

Mr Manhar Narsey, Gujarat Education Society of Fiji

Mr Agni Deo Singh, Fiji Teachers' Union

Mr Sarju Prasad, Shree Sanatan Dharam Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji

Mr Uday Raju, Dakshina India Andhra Sangam

Mr Bayant Singh, Sikh Association of Fiji

Mr Netani Druavesi, Fijian Teachers' Association

Ratu Meli Tora, Ba Provincial Council

**The Permanent Secretary for Education or his or her Representative - Section 13(2)(c) of the Act**

Ms Susan Kiran (Acting Permanent Secretary for Education)

Dr Anjeela Jokhan

**A Professor appointed by the Senate - Section 13(2)(d) of the Act**

Professor Shaista Shameem

**One Registered Student Appointed by the Executive of Students Association in accordance with relevant regulation – Section 13 (2)(e) of the Act**

Ratu Sailosi Dawai

**An Elected non-professorial member of the academic staff elected by the non-professorial staff – Section 13(3) of the Act**

Mr Mohammed Farik

**Co-opted Members - Section 13(4) of the Act**

Dr Rajnesh Sant

Dr Claire Slatter

Ms Jane Ricketts

Mr Kamal Chand

Mr Ravneet Charan

**Secretary: Registrar - Section 11(3) of the Act**

Ms Karishma Mani

**In Attendance**

Mr Ravneet Sami (Executive Director Finance, Planning and Development)

**Upon Invitation**

Deans of Schools



# Committees of Council

## APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

### Purpose

*The purpose of this Committee is to apply the set policy and procedures while making an appointment based on the qualification and competence of the role.*

### Membership

#### *Appointments below Associate Professor*

Vice-Chancellor (Chair)  
Dean of School where the appointment is being made  
Head of Department where the appointment is being made  
Dean of another School  
Secretary - Human Resources Manager

#### *Appointments at Professor and Associate Professor Level*

Vice-Chancellor (Chair)  
Pro-Chancellor  
Another member of the Council  
Dean of School where the appointment is being made  
Dean of another School  
A Professor from another University  
Secretary - Human Resources Manager

#### *Appointments at Support Services Levels*

Registrar (Chair)  
Executive Director Finance, Planning and Development  
Head of Support Services where the appointment is being made  
Head of another Support Service  
Secretary - Human Resources Manager

## AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

### Purpose

*The purpose of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is to ensure that the University manages its accounting procedures and risks consistent with robust accounting practices, and that it meets all statutory obligations in financial management.*

### Membership

*One non-University of Fiji Staff Member of Council appointed by Council:*  
Mr Parnesh Sharma (Chair)

*Four other persons from outside the University appointed:*

Mr Manoj Ram  
Mr Vimal Dutt  
Ms Sangita Mishra  
Mr Sashi Singh

One Representative from the Students' Association  
Secretary - A member of the Registrar's Office

### *In Attendance*

Vice-Chancellor  
Registrar  
Executive Director Finance, Planning and Development  
Internal Auditor

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Purpose

*The purpose of the Finance Committee is to ensure that the University develops a robust budgeting process and manages its finances to maintain a healthy financial position.*

### Membership

*A Member of Council appointed by the Council:*  
Mr Ravindra Varman (Chair)

Pro-Chancellor  
Vice-Chancellor

### *Council members*

Mr Parnesh Sharma  
Mr Arun Padarath - Chair of Physical Planning & Development Committee (PPDC)

A Member appointed by Senate  
Executive Director Finance, Planning and Development  
One Representative from the Students' Association  
Secretary - A member of the Registrar's Office

### *In Attendance*

Registrar

## PHYSICAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### Purpose

*The purpose of the Physical Planning & Development Committee (PPDC) is to ensure that the University develops and maintains its physical infrastructure to support its academic activities. The Committee also serves to project manage any infrastructure development.*

**Membership**

*A member of the Council appointed by the Council*

Mr Arun Padarath (Chair)

Pro-Chancellor

Vice-Chancellor

Chair of Finance Committee

*Two Council members*

Dr Rajnesh Sant

Mr Uday Raju

One Representative from Senate

One Representative from the Students' Association

Registrar

Executive Director Finance, Planning and Development

Secretary - A member of the Registrar's Office

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS COMMITTEE****Purpose**

*The Scholarships and Loans Committee aids students by allowing them to be part of the loan scheme which operates on a 'borrow-to-study and work-to-pay' philosophy.*

**Membership**

Pro-Chancellor (Chair)

One Member of Council

One Member of Senate

Executive Director Finance, Planning and Development

Registrar

Secretary - A member of the Registrar's Office

**STAFF POLICY COMMITTEE****Purpose**

*The purpose of the Staff Policy Committee is to provide oversight of the development and implementation of all policies that relate to the staff of the University.*

**Membership**

*Ex-officio members*

Vice-Chancellor (Chair)

Pro-Chancellor

Deans of Schools

One Centre Director

Chair of Finance Committee

Appointed member

One Representative of the Staff Association (SAUF)

Secretary - A member of the Registrar's Office

*In Attendance*

Registrar

Executive Director Finance, Planning and Development

**STAFF REVIEW/PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE****Purpose**

*The Staff Review/Promotions Committee is a Joint Committee of Council that looks at the holistic capabilities of staff to job fit and identifies gaps in their performance. The Committee is embedded with powers to renew contracts and responsibilities ranging from monetary rewards based on good performance to commendation letters.*

**Membership**

Vice-Chancellor (Chair)

Pro-Chancellor

Deans of Schools

*A Member of Council who is not a staff of the University*

Mr. Arun Padarath/ Dr. Rajnesh Sant

Mr. Ravindra Varman (alternate)

A Centre Director

Registrar

Executive Director Finance, Planning and Development

A staff member elected from among academic and professional staff

Secretary - Human Resources Manager

**TENDER COMMITTEE****Purpose**

*The purpose of the Tender Committee is to provide oversight of the tendering for purchases as per the University Financial Policies & Procedures.*

**Membership**

Pro-Chancellor (Chair)

Vice-Chancellor

*A member of Council*

Dr. Rajnesh Sant

Chair of PPDC

Chair of Finance Committee

Secretary - A member of the Registrar's Office

*In Attendance*

Registrar

Executive Director Finance, Planning and Development

## Message from the Acting Vice-Chancellor



The year 2020 will go down in the annals of history as that representing a paradigm shift not only in higher education but also in business and economics, politics, security, medicine, science and communications. The new millennium's third decade dawned as a tough challenge for all and we were no exception.

The first semester began with the coronavirus 'bang' with lockdowns in Lautoka and Suva affecting both our Saweni and Samabula students and staff. The immediate focus was how to deliver effective learning and teaching in constrained circumstances.

The University's senior administration immediately moved into the sphere of risk management by establishing connections with students through digital means and personal contacts. By the end of the semester the administration was very confident that it had not only reached the large majority of our students but that it had put into effect a systematic plan to ensure that learning and teaching could proceed without serious impediment to student numbers and knowledge transfer from lecturer to student. We found that being a small, boutique, university we could take advantage of our connections through the students' association (the University of Fiji Students' Association) and through our community to reach and retain students quickly.

Semester Two was, therefore, not as big a challenge as we had predicted. Our communications were enhanced by establishing PC Labs throughout Viti Levu and in Vanua Levu (Labasa). Students were thus able to stay within their own districts, towns and cities and access their lectures online. This method reduced the risk of COVID-19 community infection and made studying cheaper because transport and accommodation costs were reduced.

Semester Two also saw the introduction in the JDP School of Law of the Top Hat Virtual Classroom

platform which meant that both face to face and online classes could be held simultaneously, thus expanding our student base. With the University's need to become self-funding over time as scholarships and student loans become more restricted, the Virtual Classroom is likely to stay for the foreseeable future since this methodology allows students from all over the world to access our programmes in virtual time.

*The University of Fiji  
proudly states that it is  
'Future Ready'; there is  
no time like the present to  
prove it.*

One of the biggest achievements in the current financial year was that the University Council was advised by its owners, the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha in June 2020, that the University is now to be recorded as an entity of the Sabha on official documents, as required by the University Act 26 of 2011, and not as an entity of Shiksha (Fiji) Limited. This outcome was based on a legal opinion sought by the Board of Directors of Shiksha (Fiji) Limited; henceforth, our Financials will be registered as coming under The University of Fiji.

During the year, as COVID-19 spread widely the world over, it had an impact on areas other than just the health services. The impact on global markets and economic activity seriously affected Fiji also with evidence of major business disruption or industries disappearing altogether.

Nevertheless, the University has continued to operate as normally as possible given the restrictions and



downturns. The University Council approved the implementation of cost-cutting strategies proposed by the operations side including central management of each expense.

The University also successfully negotiated with students and vendors to manage their business risks despite the economic downturn. With these strategies in place, the University showed a healthy \$3,515,755 operating surplus for the year. This is positive compared to 2019 when the deficit recorded was \$118,436. The surplus in 2020 was utilised to service the capital development and bank repayments for the University. The University's payables have thus reduced to \$764,489 in the current year from \$1,314,892 in 2019. No income tax was recorded as the University has been granted an exemption from income tax.

The Annual Report 2020 will show readers several important aspects of the direction in which we are going for the next decade: (i) we are introducing new programmes, including specifically at the postgraduate level, that will satisfy the millennials, for example, in interdisciplinary studies for the complex world we

live in, medical health sciences for the COVID-19 reality, the environment for saving the planet, the new business and economics for self-employment and the small scale national economy, humanities and the arts for expression and holistic education, and heritage and values for understanding society; (ii) we relish our boutique nature by providing individual attention to students and ensuring we not only provide formal education but also offer the 'soft skills' of empathy and compassion, integrity, goodwill and exemplary citizenship; and (iii) we embrace new methodologies and platforms of learning and teaching both face to face and in cyberspace. In short, we are rapidly becoming a millennial university - open to the 21st century realities and ensuring our staff and students are similarly ready for them.

The 2020 Annual Report thus showcases the University of Fiji's ability to embrace its leadership role in higher education in Fiji, if not the world. The University was founded in the new millennium just 16 years ago but in that period it has grown from strength to strength. Despite the challenges it has the tenacity and resolve to continue to provide a robust higher education within the realities and tenets of our times.

**Professor Shaista Shameem FRSA**

# The Senate

## Purpose

*The Senate is the academic authority of the University and is responsible to the Council; for learning and teaching, consultancy, research and other academic work of the University, for ensuring the quality of such learning and teaching, consultancy, research and other work, and for the regulation and superintendence of the education, training and discipline of the student.*

## Membership

**Ex-Officio Members - Section 26(1) of the University of Fiji Act 2011**

**Vice-Chancellor, Chair - Section 26(1)(a) of the Act**

Professor Sushila Chang - January to March  
Professor Shaista Shameem (Acting) - from April

**Pro-Chancellor - Section 26(1)(b) of the Act**

Ambassador Kamlesh Arya, OF 'Arya Ratna'

**Deans of Schools - Section 26(1)(c) of the Act**

Professor Shaista Shameem, Dean JDPSoL  
Professor Anirudh Singh, Dean SoST  
Professor Tupeni Baba, Dean SoHA  
Professor Ranasinghe Amaradasa, Dean SoBE  
Professor Fredrick Merchant, Dean UPSM&HS

**The Professors - Section 26(1)(d) of the Act**

Professor Subramani  
Professor Ruvendra Nandan

**Appointed Members - Section 26(2) of the Act**

**Heads of Departments - Section 26(2)(a) of the Act**

Dr Ajay Singh, Head of Science  
Mr Gyaneshwar Rao, Head of Economics  
Ms Iloi Rabuka, Nursing Coordinator  
Mr Jone Vukinagauna, Head of CSM  
Dr Kamala Naiker, Head of Languages  
Dr Ricardo Corpuz, Head of Basic Sciences  
Dr Robert Bancod, Head of Clinical Services  
Ms Sandhiya Roy, Head of Accounting  
Dr Samuela Korovo, Head of Community Medicine  
Dr Wahab Ali, Head of Education  
Dr Navneel Prasad, Head of Management

**Directors of Centres - Section 26(2)(b) of the Act**

Mr Usaia Gaunavou, Acting Director CIS

**University Librarian - Section 26(2)(c) of the Act**

Ms Masiran Kutty, Acting UL

**One member of the Executive from the Students' Association appointed by the Executives of the Students' Association - Section 26(2)(f) of the Act**

Ratu Sailosi Dawai

**Elected Member (A non-professorial member of the staff elected by the non-professorial academic staff) - Section 26(3) of the Act**

Mr Mohammed Farik, Academic

**Secretary to the Senate - Section 11(3) of the Act**

Ms. Karishma Mani, Registrar

## In Attendance

Ms Nathasha Mudaliar, Assistant Registrar  
Mr Ravineet Sami, Executive Director Finance, Planning and Development  
Ms Angeline Prasad, Quality Assurance  
Ms Doreen Reddy, Quality Assurance  
Mr Ashneel Singh, Human Resources Manager  
Mr Joel Anjaiya, IT Manager  
Ms Vineeta Narayan, Special Projects Officer  
Mr Jone Veisamasama, Student Counselor



# Schools and Centre





## Schools of Humanities and Arts



2020 has been a remarkable year for the School of Humanities and Arts (SoHA) considering the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns. The Coronavirus revealed emerging vulnerabilities in the education systems around the world making it clear that society needed a much more flexible and resilient education system as we face unpredictable futures. The SoHA quickly adopted the online modality using Moodle as the main means of being in touch with the students. Lectures were posted on Moodle and later on the blended mode of teaching was implemented using Google Meet as an interactive platform. The SoHA was in an enviable position as all the staff were computer literate and were used to the blended mode of learning and teaching. The transition to online learning was challenging in the beginning but staff and students were able to adapt to the new demand. It must be established that adopting the online learning environment is not just a technical issue. It is a pedagogical and an instructional challenge. As such, ample preparation in regards to teaching materials, curriculum and assessment knowledge is vital in online education.

*Technology is the means for delivery and requires a close cross-collaboration between instructional, content, and technology teams.*

In December 2019, the Fiji Higher Education Commission approved the Bachelor of Teaching Programme and it was offered from Semester 1, 2020. The programme design and delivery were based on

collaboration among the Department of Education at The University of Fiji and the school community, to prepare primary school teachers to meet the educational demands of the 21st century. Additionally, the program is infused with the ethical and value-laden issues inherent to the teaching profession. The programme curriculum includes comprehensive educational theory and research following the themes of constructivism, ethical responsibility, and the use of technology as an essential educational tool. Through integrated course work and field experiences, students can develop the insight and skills needed to be effective educators in a complex and increasingly technological world. The program will encourage and develop students' research skills and capacity for critical analysis and meeting learning outcomes that are in line with the expectations of 21st century educators.

The Department of Education developed and continued offering four education courses for Diploma in Teaching iTaukei Language, Literature and Culture (Secondary). This was facilitated to meet the teaching requirements for the programme and to ensure that it met the standards of the Fiji Teachers Registration Authority (FTRA) and to ensure the employment of our graduates in the Fiji schools. The courses included the following:

- EDU128 Educational Psychology for Teaching and Learning;
- EDU228 Curriculum Planning for Teaching and Learning Vosa Vakaviti
- EDU229 Assessing and Evaluating Student Learning in Secondary Schools; and
- EDU328 Practicum Internship (16 weeks).

The offering of these courses will cease once all the



students enrolled in the program have graduated.

The Fiji Program Facility which is an initiative of the Australian Government to implement health, governance, education and response programs in Fiji and Tuvalu organised a two-day workshop at the University of Fiji. The workshop was in line with Fiji's National Development Plan (2017-2036) goals which is to improve the social well-being of all Fijians with no one left behind "regardless of geographical boundaries, gender, identity, ethnicity, physical and intellectual capability, and social and economic status". The workshop consisted of attendees from the Fiji National University and Ministry of Education Senior Education Officers from all District Offices around the country. Deliberations during the two-day workshop included how Teacher Education Institutions could incorporate the GESI concepts into their programmes. Tertiary institutions too were also asked to re-look at how they could cater for the minority groups that included students from the low socio-economic background, persons with disabilities (PWD), LGBT, single mothers, and others.

The Ministry of Education Heritage & Arts (MEHA) has had a series of meetings with all its stakeholders and UniFiji was represented by staff from the Education Department. These were collaborative briefings and presentations where MEHA discussed its priorities and shared its expectations, asked for feedback.

In December, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of FTRA visited the School and was pleased to learn that SoHA offers 4-year programmes such as Bachelor of Arts – Graduate Diploma in Teaching, Bachelor of Commerce – Graduate Diploma in Teaching, and Bachelor of Science – Graduate Diploma in Teaching. The Education Department used such deliberations as helpful industry collaborations to upgrade its courses accordingly.

The Doctor of Education programme and Postmasters Certificate in Education programme was phased out in 2020.

It was a memorable occasion for the Education department when Mr. Shalendra Singh handed over the copies of the Doctor of Education Thesis. Mr. Singh is the second student who completed his doctoral thesis with the Education Department.

The Language, Literature, and Communication (LLC) Department serves the language needs of students in a transitional period as they embark on a learning

experience where the medium of instruction is English. The principal LLC course is English for Academic Purposes (EAP) designed for students who need to meet the university English Language Attainment Requirements preparing them for academic study in a university that uses English as a medium of instruction. In addition, LLC provided a large number of out-of-classroom support services and activities for all University students while focusing on three main areas - independent learning, speaking, and writing. Independent Learning provided students with resources which included printed and online materials for English language learners and also offered workshops on specific English language skills to help students work independently on improving all aspects of their English. Speaking offered presentation skills workshops and ran informal speaking activities and the Writing section conducted workshops on a variety of linguistic and rhetorical aspects of writing and also housed the Language Clinic which offered one-to-one peer advice on students' writing assignments.

As part of its community service initiative, the LLC Department was involved in helping fire victims by converting Containers into Living Homes in collaboration with the Sathya Sai Organization, Ba. This is an ongoing project in which LLC Department is taking an active role. Furthermore, donations were made to Golden Age Home and Lautoka Crippled Society.

Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic, the School coordinated and participated in events to promote its programmes. To promote LLC programmes in Secondary Schools, a scene from the Play *Hamlet* was presented and Elizabethan Era dressing was used to promote the English Language through the Cyber Space Fair.

The Languages Week provided an important opportunity to highlight the linguistic diversity of the wider Fijian community in which we live. The week-long display of artwork, posters, and charts was driven by the LLC Department, seizing the opportunity to recognize the fundamental role of diverse languages that we grew up in. The School was equally proud and humbled by the efforts, time, and creativity displayed by the students in the undergraduate programme studying Hindi and English Language respectively. A similar display was organized in Samabula Campus.

From Semester 1, 2020 the LLC Department coordinated Peer Group Mentors. The Student Mentors were appointed to assist LLC students with learning, research, preparation of assignments,

seminar presentations, assessments, and any other study-related matters. This idea was shared with other Schools to incorporate Study Groups and enhance learning.

The LLC Department organized and celebrated Fiji's 50<sup>th</sup> independence anniversary in October and in collaboration with the World Hindi Secretariat, Mauritius, The University of Fiji organized a Hindi Roundtable Discussion on 14 October 2020 on the theme "Progressive Future and Hindi".

The School believes in creating a learning environment that fosters discovery and dissemination of knowledge to promote learning, equitable access, and enhanced learning outcomes for all students through face-to-face and online modalities. Whether students aspire to become teachers, policymakers, researchers, or educational leaders, our undergraduate and postgraduate students are prepared to lead with impact. The School's programmes are designed with Fiji's greatest educational needs in mind and to prepare students to work at all levels of the education system to increase equity, accessibility, and innovation.



The 2020 Academic Year commenced with all staff on board.

Due to COVID-19, the Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law (JDPSoL) commenced with a blended mode of teaching in conformity with the Fijian Government's policy regarding lockdowns and social distancing. After a break of several weeks, JDPSoL commenced with Online Teaching mostly to fulfill its obligations towards the students.

*The School introduced the Top Hat teaching platform in Semester 2 to enhance the online experience of the students.*

In view of the COVID-19 guidelines, the JDPSoL followed a blended mode of teaching, which involved 30% face-to-face mode and a 70% online teaching through Top Hat. The University Council approved Top Hat for use in JDPSoL and teaching of the

Summer Course on Law 305: Public International and Human Rights Law which adopted a new mode of the virtual classroom. It was trialed by the Dean who was the Coordinator of the Course and proved popular with the students. International Guests lecturers for the LAW305 Course included the following:

- 1) Dr. Jyoti Shangera, the Chief of Section of the Human Rights and Social and Economic Issues at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva;
- 2) Dave Inder Comar, Executive Director, Just Atonement INC, New York;
- 3) Her Excellency, Ambassador Nazhat Shameem, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations in Geneva;
- 4) His Excellency, Ambassador Satyendra Prasad, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations in New York.
- 5) Mr. Ashwin Raj, Director, Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission.



The TOP HAT platform would be utilised by the school for all its programmes in the 2021 Academic Year.

The Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice Programme (GDLP) was coordinated by Mr. Jiten Singh in the first Semester and by Ms. Koila Kabu in the second Semester. The School invited Guest lecturers and visitors to the programme which included Colonel Mason Smith, Director, IUCN, Senior Legal Practitioners Mr. Devenesh Sharma, Ms Laurel Vaurasi, Ms. Mele Rakai and Ms. Ana Tuiketeti. Representatives from Government agencies also briefed the students on their intended profession, Mr. Krishan Prasad represented the Fiji Courts, Ms Frances from the Fiji Public Trust Cooperation and Commissioner. Online Safety Commissioner Anne Dunn also facilitated a session with the GDLP class.

As part of the community services programme, the GDLP Class of Semester 2, 2020 visited and

undertook a clean-up of the Samabula Old Peoples Home and the upgrading of the incinerator facilities.

US Ambassador Joseph Cella invited GDLP class (Semester 2) for the Plomacy (movie) sessions at the Embassy. It was a collaborative effort by the US Embassy for the three Universities in Fiji.

2020 Academic Year also, for the first time, saw fewer law graduates being employed due to the economic decline post COVID-19 in Fiji as law firms were badly affected.

JDPSoL is reviewing all its programmes in 2021 to ensure it keeps up with new challenges for law students and graduates.

Community engagement during 2020 continued with online parliamentary submissions made by the Dean and staff. The students continued to volunteer in organisations to assist with NGO work in 2020.



The “Mission” of the School of Business and Economics is to prepare the students for the global labour market by providing a high-quality learning environment. To achieve this the School of Business and Economics which consists of three departments: Accounting and Finance, Economics and Management, and the Master of Business Administration programme invites students who are serious and committed to their programme of study and wish to be successful not only in their endeavours but also contribute to the progress, welfare and development of the organizations and communities where they work.

The students are guided to gradually upgrade their

knowledge, skills, and attributes through a process of understanding, using and planning what they learn in their respective courses from year one to year three.

*The School maintains a friendly and approachable teaching environment to deal with students’ requirements.*

Postgraduate courses are directed towards upskilling the existing workforce and it will enhance capacity development in Fiji in teaching, research, management, and consultancy work where the graduates will be

exposed to take leadership positions in the future.

The MBA programme was well established and is being reviewed to further enhance its quality.

The School produced its second Ph.D. graduate – Dr Vishwa Prasad, who was awarded the Doctorate on 16 December 2020.

A milestone was achieved for the School when the Head of Department- Accounting, Ms Sandhiya Roy became the first student to graduate from the Master of Commerce programme at the UniFiji.

The School have developed new programmes called the Bachelor of Commerce in Resource Economics and Management and Bachelor of Commerce in Tourism Studies programme.

Plans to introduce industrial attachments for students had to be deferred to 2022 because of COVID-19. Three new courses have been introduced at the Master of Commerce in Economics level, ECO409 Energy

Economics, ECO407 Research paper and ECO408 Advanced International Trade while two new courses have been introduced under the Postgraduate Diploma in Management, MGT408 Innovation Management and MGT409 Research Paper in Management

Classes had to be conducted online because of COVID-19. The schedule of course offering was delayed by 3 weeks but gradually brought back to normal by the hard-working staff of the school. The School plans to introduce the Doctor of Business Administration programme in 2022.

The School was fortunate to have Professor Mohit Kolay from India who delivered a lecture series on “Strategic Management”. Professor T.J. Kamalaban from IIT Madras, India was expected to visit UniFiji in Trimester 1, 2020 to deliver the lecture series on “Human Resources Management” but his visit was canceled due to COVID-19. Professor Kamalaban however continued his support to the School and provided four online classes.



The School began the year 2020 as usual with its full complement of programmes of teaching, research, and community engagement. However, these plans were interrupted in March with the onset of COVID-19. It meant that we were unable to organize some of our major research and public engagement activities. Amongst these were the planned International Symposium on Renewable Energy, Environment and Climate Change (ISREECC2020) which would have followed its highly successful inauguration the previous year.

*The School began the academic year with a successful introduction of four new programmes of study within its departments.*

Additionally, the School was visited by 17 high-level guest speakers while on the publication front, the departments were able to produce ten journal articles, one edited book, and ten book chapters.

During the year the School participated in events such



as:

- Climate Change, Migration, and Vulnerability Workshop in January.
- National Stakeholder Consultation on Fiji's draft National Ocean Policy in June.
- NDC Investment Plan and Projects Pipeline in Fiji for Transport and Energy Efficiency Sectors: Financial Instruments Sector Meeting.
- Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Workshop (Virtual Workshop).
- Accelerating Investment in Renewables, Energy Efficiency & Smart Mobility in the Pacific Islands - Financing Renewable Energy.
- Using Machine Learning and Deep Learning for Energy Forecasting with MATLAB.
- National Consultation on the 30% Offshore Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in Lautoka.
- Youth Ocean Leadership Conference in October, Suva.
- Asia Pacific National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) Regional Dialogue (Virtual).
- Introductory Webinar: Remote Sensing for Mangroves in Support of UN Sustainable Development Goals (Virtual).
- National Stakeholder Consultation on National Ocean Policy (NOP), Suva.
- Fiji Geospatial Information Management Council (FGIMC) Meeting, Suva.
- Talanoa on National Implementation of Global Goals: Coherence between Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Suva.

To build the University's research profile, the School's staff are actively involved in several projects. Some of these projects are:

- *“National implementation of global goals: Coherence between Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), 2019 - 2021”* Project. It is a collaboration between the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Linköping University (LiU), The University of Canberra (UC), and SEI's office in Colombia. This project is implemented in four countries including Fiji, Sweden, Australia, and Columbia. The main objective of the project is to enhance the effectiveness of policy coherence efforts by countries in their NDC and SDG work. The

project which is funded by FORMAS (Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development) and has an allocation of approximately FJD100K for the University of Fiji. The project will also seek to provide input to the annual UN High-Level Political Forum on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is indeed a milestone for the University of Fiji to collaborate with leading academic and research institute partners.

- The School supported the *Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change* in promoting a virtual art competition: Reimagine Pacific Futures.
- In October, a global citizen's dialogue was held at the University Campus in Saweni where all Science Department members worked as facilitators for this event.
- In June, the Department of Science together with the support of The Drug-Free World – Fiji (Volatabu Group), Ministry of Mums (MOM) Group, and Western Youths Empire (WYE) organized the drug awareness campaign. The objective of the event was to reach out to the public, and talk to the people about the harmful effects of drugs to our bodies, and educate them of the drugs that are currently available in the market. The UniFiji students were able to experience community awareness in this one-day event.
- In commemoration of the International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystem, a tree planting campaign was organized. For this event, three sites were targeted including, Saweni Beach and Veiseisei Village. The University in partnership with the Volatabu Group, Western Youth Empire, Ministry of Forestry (Fiji), USP Lautoka, PYGMIES, and Red Cross facilitated the awareness of the importance of mangroves to the people living in these communities.
- The University of Fiji (together with USP) conducted a Climate Change Awareness program at Veiseisei Village.

When it was confirmed that the 2020 UniFiji Open Day would be in the form of a Cyberspace Fair, a team of staff from SoST worked tirelessly to produce the promotional videos for the School.

The School aims to show continuous improvement through its programmes and courses and so, following the approval from the Senate, the School is

working towards obtaining approval for the following programmes from the FHEC:

- MSc in Physics
- MSc in Environmental Science
- PhD in Physics
- PhD in Environmental Science

The year 2020 was a trying year for the School. However, as the records reveal, it handled the challenge well. The School has learnt important lessons from the un-announced arrival of the global pandemic and looks forward to combating the challenges that will follow.



The aim of the Centre for iTaukei Studies (CIS) is to provide a premier institution within the University of Fiji for the study of iTaukei History; Culture and Tradition; iTaukei Administration; iTaukei Society & Modern Political Development, iTaukei Resources & Economy and Fiji a Multi-Cultural Society and New Challenges in a Globalizing World. All iTaukei Studies are conducted within the context of a multi-cultural Fiji.

*It is through the Centre that the University of Fiji as a whole responds effectively to the needs of the iTaukei Fijians.*

Through its programmes, CIS actively encourages the development of an inclusive and united Fiji where ethnic groups can interact more and develop a greater understanding of and respect for one another. Therefore it becomes an important forum for dialogue on important multicultural issues as well as on significant and relevant concerns of indigenous Fijians. CIS's teaching, research, publishing, consultancy, and community service programmes focus attention on finding practical solutions to issues and challenges facing the iTaukei Fijians today. The CIS also becomes a Centre of Excellence for iTaukei art and culture and will work with other agencies and

institutions concerned with iTaukei Fijians.

The Centre received an invitation from the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs in collaboration with the iTaukei Affairs Board. The two-day workshop was held at the Novotel in Suva on 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The Centre was represented by its Samabula-based lecturer, Avisake Moceica, who contributed to the discussion of various components of the Ministry's Tabua Policy for the establishment of their Tabua Shop. The Tabua Symposium was the last phase of a series of consultations of the Tabua Symposium where stakeholders were invited to share their ideas, issues, concerns, and recommendation that needed to be factored in and the Tabua Policy.

The Centre plans to introduce more specializations with the iTaukei programme currently to all more interdisciplinary options for the students. The new interdisciplinary major would enable graduates to have the freedom to choose their subject major specialization by giving them more choices and the opportunity to explore two subjects without having to limit themselves to one or restricted options.

The Diploma in Teaching iTaukei Language and Culture (Secondary) programme was discontinued temporarily to review the course structure and content as agreed to by the Department of Education



and the Centre for iTaukei Studies in their meeting with the Registrar. The Education Department under SOHA assisted in offering their education courses for the students to complete and graduate under the programme

A listing was provided of all the remaining students under the Diploma in Teaching iTaukei programme showing the students and the education courses yet to be completed.

The Centre had offered its first short courses, **Learning the Craft of Needlework through Quilting and Patching (Patchwork)** and students were awarded

their certificates on the third day.

The Centre has continued to carry out its aims to be an institution within the University of Fiji for the study of iTaukei History, Culture and Tradition; iTaukei Administration; iTaukei Society & Modern Political Development, iTaukei Resources & Economy and Fiji- a Multi-Cultural Society and New Challenges in a Globalizing World.

The Centre looks forward to exploring some of the topics above which it has not been able to dwell on in 2020.



The School had another excellent year with progressive training of medical professionals and attached disciplines in continuing its MBBS Medical, Clinical Nursing, Public Health, and Allied Health curricula. In addition to detailed planning, a new programme Bachelor of Medicine and Health Science (BMHS) programme is at a work -in-progress stage despite the developmental headwinds posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

*The School remained relevant, competitive, and vibrant with growth and sustained futurism.*

The year 2020 was indeed memorable not the least of which was the COVID-19 Pandemic and its effects on Medical teaching and learning especially as it affected all University programmes by rapidly altering the teaching-learning modes. In quick energised response, we deftly transitioned from our time-tested traditional face-to-face lecture/laboratory mode to the rapidly switched 'On-line' delivery systems. Our

overall connectivity and penetration ranged from 65-80% as some students on other islands, unfortunately, remained completely bereft of some connectivity. However, despite the challenges, the vast majority of the students remained in positive teaching-learning modes using at times supplementing Moodle with Viber as a popular reliable alternate contact.

It is important to note that early into the altered lack of the normal face-to-face modes we did experience an 'incident' of potential Covid contact in November 2020 involving the Dean of the school and two MBBS Surgical students. It involved the assigned Radiology Technician who was related to one of our students and tasked with taking x-rays of patients in the Covid Isolation Unit. At this time the Radiology Technician suddenly developed an acute respiratory illness and was suspected of having contracted Covid19 from an 'Into hospital transfer' which meant anyone in contact with the MBBS Surgery students and this tech had to be swabbed and immediately placed in a 'lockdown isolation' mode pending the results of a rapid (PCR) nasopharyngeal swab assessment. Following a

mandatory standard assessment period all involved, such as hospital personnel, medical students, and the Dean of the School were ‘assessed cleared’ and thus resumed the ongoing hospital work and teaching. It was a difficult time for all involved but it all proved worthwhile as no medical security breaks occurred and everyone was adjudged to be safe and medically secured.

In April 2020, the school’s Staff and Students secured the ‘all important’ WHO Staff Health Clearances and MBBS Medical Hospital Admission Badges/Fiji MOH which allowed access to Hospital “Clinical Zones”. This process was a combination of Lautoka Hospital’s Face-to-Face live Lab Demonstrations combined with on-site videos and lectures presented by the Lautoka Hospital Infectious Control Department. Certification was expertly and efficiently carried out sans incident. The process included hand sanitizing, face masking, and physical distancing. It allowed a smooth transition from the lack of ‘face-to-face’ to direct access to the Hospital Wards measured as a major step in continued MBBS TI (Training-Intern) advancement and training. One MBBS student

received certification in absentia via an approved St. John’s Ambulance Intl Covid Course.

Further into the year, our MBBS year 6 engaged in and were certified in Advanced BLS (Basic Life Support) training at Marine Drive Centre. This course included advanced Certified Instructor-based guidance and mentoring with combined use of ‘hands-on’, videos/mannequins, venous access, intubation, and thoracostomy simulations.

In April 2020, the school received a gracious formal presentation and invitation from Sai Medical to join and participate in their Medical Webinar. For this gratis online service, the students were grateful as they had benefitted from the presentations of an array of important medical topics.

Further, in December 2020 the School Dean with the Acting Vice-Chancellor and associated Department(s) Heads, inspected the potential site for the future of the BMHS programme and department. The school anticipates its future, growth, and detailed development as per ongoing planning and activities.



# Support Services

## MARKETING

Due to the restrictions arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic and the budgetary constraints the University had to revamp its marketing strategies from a more traditional approach to digital approach by using its digital platforms.

Radio advertisements were utilised to inform the public of the University opening after the lockdown and Semester Two enrolment dates.

The Marketing section focused on social media marketing in the year 2020 to minimize costs. Facebook and the UniFiji website were used to advise students and the public of the University programmes.

As a form of Marketing, the University published free media articles. The media was invited to all major events at the University. The events were also covered by the Department; and press statements and photographs released to the media.



## THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Due to COVID-19 the library was not very highly used by all students following the restrictions on physical distancing. However, according to the user statistics, records indicate that the highest number of books were issued to medical students followed by the Law students during the year. The students and the staff who were unable to come to the Library were served with scanned copies of chapters required for their curriculum.

To improve the quality of the user service, in-house training sessions were arranged for library staff on advanced cataloguing, law database research skill etc. The Library section handled over 6,000 face-to-face inquiries in the year 2020. There were more than 8,500 Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) searches recorded. The re-shelving operation handled more than 12,495 books in 2020. Most of the items re-shelved within the day were returned by users or used in-house.

The library collection continued to grow. In 2020 we added more than 1538 new catalogue records to the library's online catalogue database. Most of these copies were donations from various individuals and organizations. During the year the Library purchased only 255 new books on various subjects. The library has approximately 38,500 volumes of print books.

In 2020 we graciously received donations from the US Embassy and Professor Subramani, a Professor at the University of Fiji. The University Library also provided access to several online databases worth \$85,000 through an agreement with Electronic Information For Libraries (EIFL) consortium at free of charge. These databases on various disciplines were available in both campuses.



## MASTER PLAN AND PHYSICAL FACILITIES

The University in 2020 disbursed approximately \$1.2M to purchase and upgrade IT Services, furniture and fittings, and books; and since 2005, the University spent \$4.9M in repairs to the facilities and equipment.

The Samabula Campus development project was completed with a cost of \$4.8M. Given the impact of COVID-19, the University had to change its Learning and Teaching delivery to two thirds online mode and one third Face to Face. In doing so the University had to setup PC labs in Labasa, Tavua, Sigatoka and Kinoya at initial cost of \$150,000. The University had to also extend medical clinical accommodation facilities in Nadi, Tavua, Sigatoka for medical students in Year 4-6 at total cost of \$300,000.

Annual operating costs in 2020, inclusive of salaries and wages, travel and per diem, electricity, telephone, water & sewerage, FHEC, land lease, rent, insurance, advertising and marketing, printing, stationery, postage & photocopy, cleaning & sanitary, graduation, security, and general expenses, amounted to \$13,490,359 and the operating revenues totalled to \$17,006,114. During the year, the University of Fiji experienced increased student enrolment numbers and this reflected greatly on its operating revenues (tuition fees, the Government subvention, and TSLB funds) thus fully covering the University's operational costs.



## IT SERVICES

2020 was a challenging year for IT Services. The pandemic brought for us an urgent need to move the delivery of classes to a virtual platform. This was a first for the University of Fiji as we did not have the resources in place for providing education virtually. The team was able to put their head to together and come up with an integrated system to fulfill this

urgent and critical need. From virtual platforms to tailoring our typical face to face to lecture rooms for virtual classes to training of staff to evolve with this paradigm shift; the team worked hand in hand and was able to deliver the results.

Below are some of the projects that were completed in 2020:

- Implementation of the relevant technology for conducting Live Classes and Recorded Lectures online (Google Meet and Moodle integration)
- Providing training to academics to use the tools for conducting live lectures and recording lectures.
- Moodle Server Upgrade
- Moodle Application Upgrade and Customisation for better performance in low data consumption and good performance in areas with poor internet coverage.
- Implementation of the Moodle mobile app
- Samabula Campus Lecture Room Upgrade
- Launched Live Chat platform on the University Website upon request from the Office of the Registrar.
- Coordinating the implementation of the Employee Self Service portal.
- Upgrading and tailoring of all lecture rooms in Saweni Campus to cater for Live Lectures. Creating that virtual classroom experience.
- Implementation and support of the ICT Centres in Lautoka, Tavua, Sigatoka and Kinoya.





# Student Affairs

## CAREERS TEACHERS WORKSHOP

The University of Fiji held its Secondary School Careers Teachers' and Principals' Workshop on September 19, 2020 (Saturday) at Saweni Campus, Samabula Campus, and Hotel Takia, Labasa. Invitations were sent regarding the Advisory Workshop on study and careers in a post-COVID-19 environment at the University of Fiji to all Secondary schools in the Central, Western, and Northern division. A total of 59 Secondary schools participated in the workshop. 82% of the participants strongly agreed that the contents of the workshop were relevant to their job as Careers Teachers. They were provided with admission forms, programme list and brochures which they distributed amongst year 12 and year 13 students in their respective schools. All these forms were collected from the Careers Teachers and student applications were processed by the Registrar's office.



## STUDENT SATISFACTION

The University continued to engage students on and off campus in multiple campus life activities despite the setbacks from COVID-19. Some of these events were cultural events, sporting activities, talks and awareness session on various topics, moot and chess competitions etc.

## ONLINE CHAT PLATFORM

The University introduced the online chat platform with the specific aim to provide guidance and advice to its potential students on the programmes that they wanted to be admitted under in 2021. The initiative led by the Office of the Registrar took into consideration the challenges faced by potential and current students who were not able to engage with the University face to face due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

To date the University has answered over 5,000 written queries and has noted hits by potential students and stakeholder in the peak months of enrolment of over 11,000.



## CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS

Cyber Security Awareness was organised by The School of Science and Technology at The University of Fiji, as part of its on-going seminar series to mark the Cyber Security Awareness Month on the theme "Do Your Part. #Be Cyber Smart". The University emphasized that with the increase in Internet activities by individuals and organisations globally today, there was a greater need for awareness on cybersecurity. Further elaboration was made on the three main goals of cybersecurity which involved protection of data and objects against disclosure attacks which impact the confidentiality of data; protection of data against alteration attacks which impact the integrity of data, and protection of systems and resources against denial of service attacks which affect the availability of data.

# University Engagements

## PROFESSOR FREDRICK MERCHANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS LAUTOKA HOSPITAL

The Dean of Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Professor Fredrick Merchant, on behalf of the University staff and students, purchased and presented 6 new hi-impact office chairs and a Breville 6 litre coffee maker to the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department at the Lautoka Hospital.

The donation was done with the credence that the ergonomically designed chairs would provide comfort for the staff relieving some of the leg-weary extended work hours of all the dedicated and hardworking A&E Doctors, Nurses and Medical Assistants of the Lautoka Hospital especially during the difficult and stressful COVID-19 times.

Professor Merchant on behalf of UPSM&HS had previously donated portable x-ray view boxes to the A&E department, Female Medical Ward, and Male Medical Ward at Lautoka Hospital.

## CHESS TOURNAMENT WITH FIJI CHESS FEDERATION

The University was part of the biggest ever national chess tournament in the Western Division with representatives of the University and the Fiji Chess Federation making their opening gambits on the lawn chess set at the Saweni Campus in November.

The tournament established the partnership between the University of Fiji and the Fiji Chess Federation for future tournaments to be held at the University. The ultimate aim of the collaboration with the Fiji Chess Federation was introduced to deviate from academic to sports and develop well rounded students. The Acting Vice Chancellor offered the Saweni Campus as a venue because chess was an intellectual game as well as a game of strategy and the university students were being encouraged to take it up to provide them with an edge in employment opportunities. The partnership with the Fiji Chess Federation gave students the opportunity to interact with chess masters and those who were at the top of their game in chess. Games are also open to staff and their family members.

## REGIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN RESILIENCE WITH SPC

The University of Fiji through the Registrar has been engaged in six regional qualifications review in Climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction. The Expert reference group in Fiji had representation from the 3 Universities, regulatory organisations such as FHEC and SPC, and experts in climate change. The review team also encompassed members from other regions. Skills Consulting Group was invited to observe and co-facilitate consultation on the Regional Qualifications in Resilience. The latest round of consultation focused on restructured and newly developed unit standards underlying the qualifications.



## TWINNING AND PARTNERSHIP PROJECT WITH MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES, NAURU

The Twinning and Partnership project between The University of Fiji and Nauru Health Professional Training Institute through the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Nauru was approved by the University Senate in March 2020. The collaboration involves developing and packaging programmes beneficial for both Fiji and Nauru. Nauru has a significant need to develop education and training services for its Health and Medical Services with a specific focus on its Nursing sector. The University is continuing to engage with the Ministry of Health, Medical Services Nauru to move this regional collaboration forward which in time will have multi-faceted impact on the nursing sector of both the countries.



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a blue ballpoint pen, pointing it at a bar chart on a document. The chart features several horizontal bars with segments in teal, red, and gold. To the right of the chart, there are two line graphs, one in green and one in pink. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the document and a wooden surface.

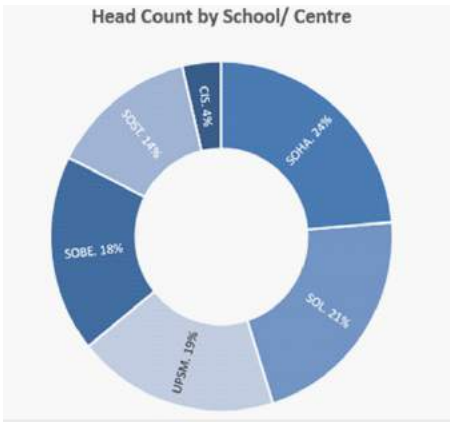
# University Statistics

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STUDENT ENROLMENT

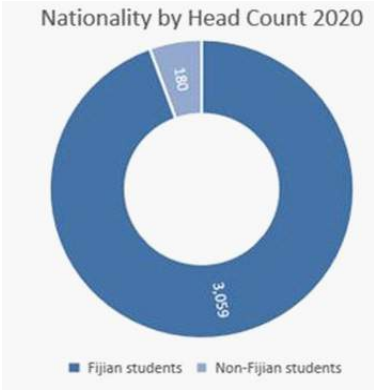
HeadCount by School

School	HeadCount
The Centre for iTaukei Studies (CIS)	125
School of Business and Economics (SOBE)	616
School of Humanities & Arts (SOHA)	801
Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law (JDPSOL)	724
School of Science & Technology (SOST)	469
Umanand Prasad School of Medicine & Health Sciences (UPSM&HS)	646



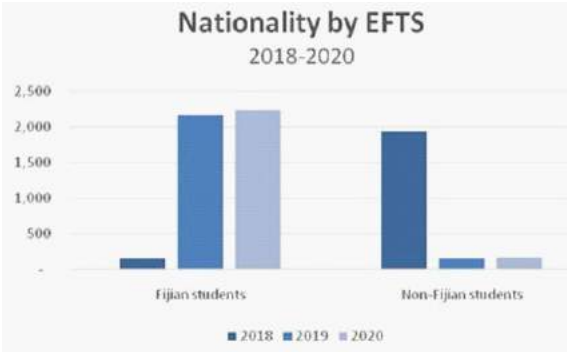
Nationality by Head Count

Nationality	2018	2019	2020
Fijian students	2,721	2,925	3,059
Non-Fijian students	156	166	180
Regional students		160	169
International students		6	11
Total	2877	3091	3239



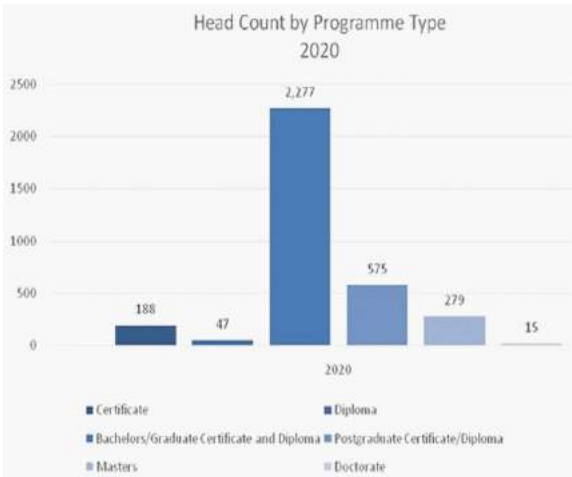
Nationality by EFTS

Nationality	2018	2019	2020
Fijian students	148	2,166	2,233
Non-Fijian students	1,933	151	165
Regional students		145	155
International students		7	9
Total	2,081	2,317	2,398



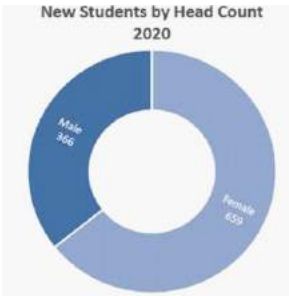
HeadCount by Programme Type

Programme Type	Programme Level	2018	2019	2020
Certificate	Level 1-4		-	188
Diploma	Level 5-6	112	91	47
Bachelors/Graduate Certificate and Diploma	Level 7	1,962	2,058	2,277
Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma	Level 8	312	397	575
Masters	Level 9	211	231	279
Doctorate	Level 10	8	9	15
Total		2,605	2,786	3,381



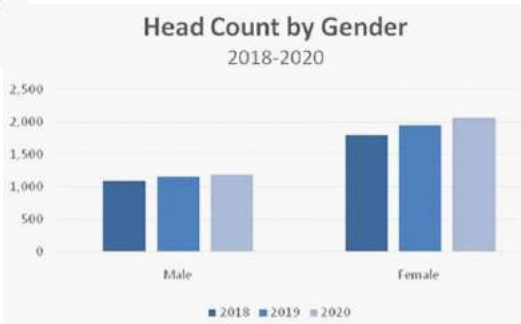
New Students by Head Count (Gender)

Gender	2020
Male	366
Female	659
Total	1,025



HeadCount by Gender

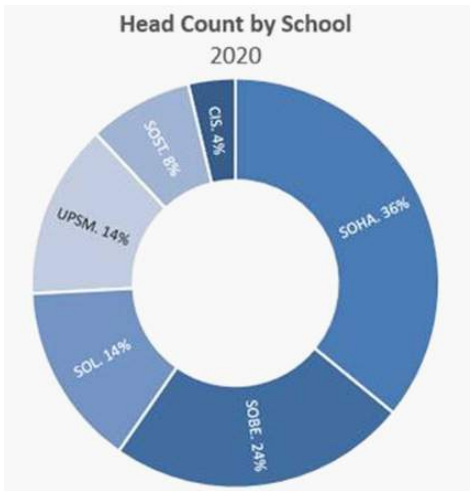
Gender	2018	2019	2020
Male	1,083	1,151	1,181
Female	1,794	1,940	2,058
Total	2,877	3,091	3,239



GRADUATION DATA

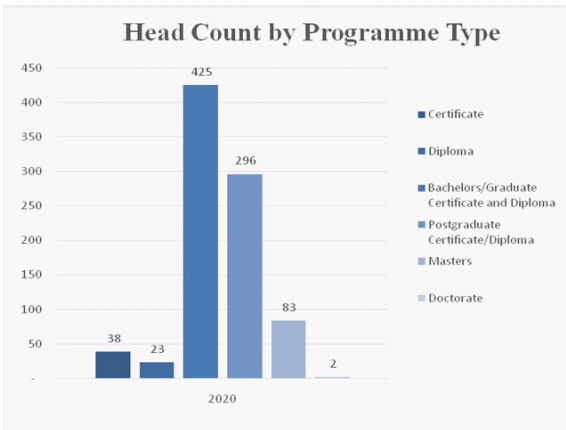
Headcount by School

School	HeadCount
The Centre of iTaukei Studies (CIS)	33
School of Business and Economics (SOBE)	210
School of Humanities & Arts (SOHA)	317
Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law (JDPSOL)	128
School of Science & Technology (SOST)	73
Umanand Prasad School of Medicine & Health Sciences (UPSM&HS)	122



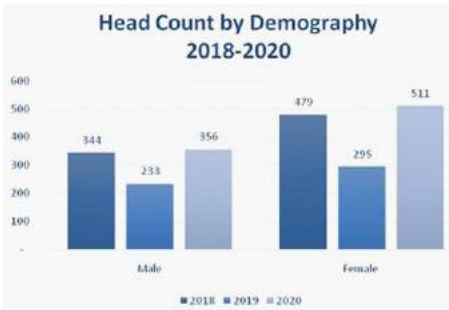
Headcount by programme

Programme Type	Programme Level	2020
Certificate	Level 1-4	38
Diploma	Level 5-6	23
Bachelors/Graduate Certificate and Diploma	Level 7	425
Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma	Level 8	296
Masters	Level 9	83
Doctorate	Level 10	2
Total		867



HeadCount by Demography

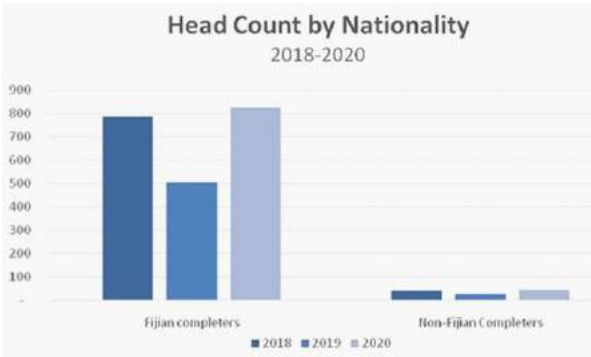
	2018	2019	2020
Male	344	233	356
Female	479	295	511
Total	823	528	867





Head Count by Nationality

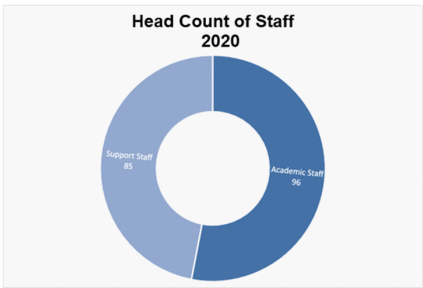
	2018	2019	2020
Fijian completers	783	503	824
Non-Fijian Completers	40	25	43
Total	823	528	867



STAFF DATA

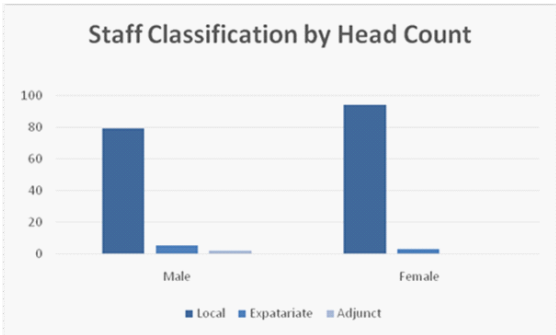
HeadCount of Staff

Staff	Male	Female	Total
Academic Staff	50	45	95
Support Staff	33	52	85



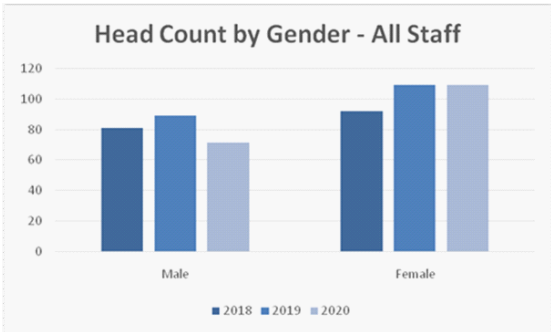
Staff Classification by Head Count

	Male	Female	Total
Local	79	94	173
Expatriate	4	3	7
Adjunct	2		2



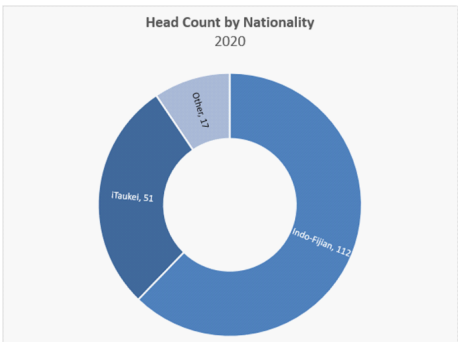
Headcount by Gender - All Staff

	2018	2019	2020
Male	81	89	71
Female	92	109	109



Head Count by Nationality

	2018	2019	2020
Fijian - iTaukei	38	44	51
Fijian - Indo-Fijian	117	134	112
Other	18	20	17





THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI  
GENERAL INFORMATION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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**Administration**

Acting Vice-Chancellor  
Professor Shaista Shameem

**Executive Director Finance Planning & Development**

Mr. Ravineet Sami

**Registrar**

Ms. Karishma Mani

**Bankers**

Home Finance Company Limited, Suva, Fiji  
Westpac Banking Corporation, Suva, Fiji

**Solicitors**

M. C. Lawyers  
Krishna & Company

**Auditors**

Ernst & Young  
Nadi  
Fiji

**Registered office**

The University of Fiji  
Private Mail Bag  
Saweni  
Lautoka

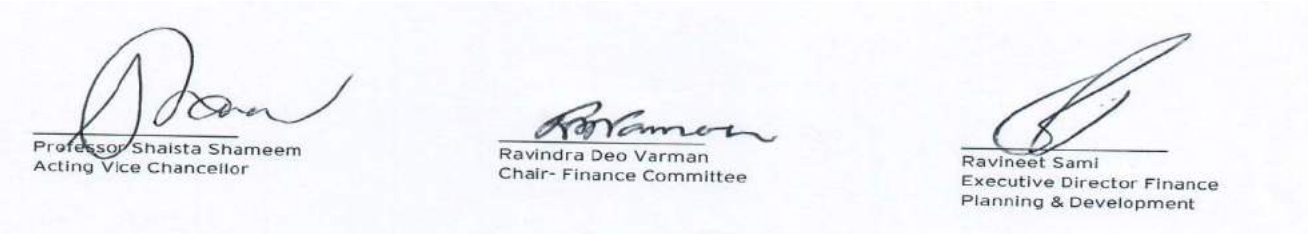


THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI  
STATEMENT BY APPOINTED OFFICERS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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In our opinion, the accompanying Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of The University of Fiji as at 31 December 2020 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date.

We are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



## THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI COUNCIL'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

In accordance with a resolution of the Council of The University of Fiji, the Council members herewith submit the statement of financial position of The University of Fiji ("the University") as at 31 December 2020, the statement of activities and other comprehensive income and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date and report as follows:

### Council members

The names of the Council members in office at the date of this report are:

- Pt. Kamlesh Arya - Pro Chancellor & Chair of Council
- Professor Shaista Shameem
- Mr. Arun Padarath
- Pt. Bhuwan Dutt
- Mr. Jagdish Chand
- Mr. Parnesh Sharma
- Mr. Ravindra Varman
- Mr. Chandar Sen
- Mr. Balwant Singh
- Mr. Netani Druavesi
- Mr. Manhar Narsey
- Ratu Meli Tora
- Mr. Agni Deo Singh
- Mr. Sarju Prasad
- Mr. Uday Raju
- Mr. Bayant Singh
- Dr. Anjeela Jokhan
- Ratu Sailosi Dawai
- Mr. Mohammed Farik
- Dr. Rajnesh Sant
- Dr. Claire Slatter
- Ms. Jane Ricketts
- Mr. Ravneet Charan

### Formation of The University of Fiji

The University of Fiji ("the University") was established by The University of Fiji Act 2011.

### Principal activities

The principal activities of the University in the course of the financial year was to provide tertiary education for foundation, undergraduate, postgraduate and general education under the trading name of the University of Fiji.

### Results

The operating surplus for the year was \$3,515,755 (2019 deficit: \$118,436). No income tax was recorded as the University has been granted an exemption from income tax.

### Reserves

The Council members recommend that no transfer be made to reserves.

### Bad and doubtful debts

Prior to the completion of the University's financial statements, the Council members took reasonable steps to ascertain that action had been taken in relation to the provision for doubtful debts. In the opinion of Council members, adequate provision has been provided for doubtful debts.

As at the date of this report, the Council members are not aware of any circumstances, which would render the amount written off for bad debts, or the provision for doubtful debts in the University's, inadequate to any substantial extent.

### Non-current assets

Prior to the completion of the financial statements of the University, the Council members took reasonable steps to ascertain whether any non-current assets were unlikely to be realised in the ordinary course of business compared to their values as shown in the accounting records of the University. Where necessary these assets have been written down or adequate provision has been made to bring the values of such assets to an amount that they might be expected to realise.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI**  
**COUNCIL'S REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**Non-current assets (continued)**

As at the date of this report, the Council members are not aware of any circumstances, which would render the values attributed to non-current assets in the University's financial statements misleading.

**Basis of accounting**

The Council members believe the basis of the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate and that the University will be able to continue in operation for at least twelve months from the date of this statement. Accordingly, the Council members believe the classification and carrying amounts of assets and liabilities as stated in these financial statements to be appropriate.

**Unusual transactions**

Apart from these matters and other matters specifically referred to in the financial statements, in the opinion of the Council members, the results of the operations of the University during the financial year were not substantially affected by any item, transaction or event of a material unusual nature, nor has there arisen between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the Council members, to affect substantially the results of the operations of the University in the current financial year, other than those reflected in the financial statements.

**Significant events during the year - change in the University Structure**

The University Council was advised by Sabha in June 2020 that The University of Fiji is now to be recorded as an entity of the Sabha on official documents, as is required by the University Act 26 of 2011 and not as an entity of Shiksha (Fiji) Limited. This was based on a legal opinion sought by the Board of Directors of Shiksha (Fiji) Limited.

**Events subsequent to balance date**

No matters or circumstances have arise since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the University, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the University in future financial years.

**Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak on the University**

During the year, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak has developed rapidly, bringing a significant health impact globally. Measures taken to contain the virus are already having a significant impact on global markets and economic activity and Fiji is also feeling the impact with business disruption and levels of activity already reducing in several market sectors.

The University has remained operational since this declaration and continues to engage in its principal activities. We have not seen a significant impact on our business to date. The outbreak and the response of Governments in dealing with the pandemic is interfering with general activity levels within the community, the economy and the operations of our business.

The Council members and management are carefully considering the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the University, and assessing future operational options. The financial impacts, however, cannot be reasonably estimated at this time, as they will be largely the product of matters the University cannot control.

The Council members and management believe the University have sufficient financial resources together with arrangements with their customers and suppliers at this time to be able to successfully manage their business risks despite the current uncertain economic outlook due to the COVID-19 outbreak. They have a reasonable expectation that the University have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

**Other circumstances**

As at the date of this report:

- (i) no charge on the assets of the University has been given since the end of the financial year to secure the liabilities of any other person;
- (ii) no contingent liabilities have arisen since the end of the financial year for which the University could become liable;
- (iii) no contingent liabilities or other liabilities of the University has become or is likely to become enforceable within the year of twelve months after the end of the financial year which, in the opinion of the Council members, will or may substantially affect the ability of the University to meet its obligations as and when they fall due.



THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI  
COUNCIL'S REPORT (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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**Other circumstances (continued)**


As at the date of this report, the Council members are not aware of any circumstances that have arisen, not otherwise dealt with in this report or the University's financial statements, which would make adherence to the existing method of valuation of assets or liabilities of the University misleading or inappropriate.

No Council members has received or become entitled to receive a benefit (other than those disclosed in the financial statements) by reason of a contract made by the University or by a related corporation with the Council member or with a firm of which he/she is a member, or with an entity in which he/she has a substantial financial interest, except members who have a contract of employment with the University.

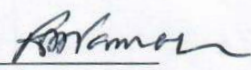
**Auditor independence**

The Council members have obtained an independence declaration from the University's auditor, Ernst & Young. A copy of the auditor's independence declaration is set out in the Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Council members The University of Fiji on page 7.

Signed on behalf of the Council and in accordance with a resolution of the Council members this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021.



Pt. Kamlesh Arya  
Pro-Chancellor & Chair of Council



Ravindra Deo Varman  
Chair- Finance Committee



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Nadi, Fiji  
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### Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Council of The University of Fiji

As lead auditor for the audit of The University of Fiji for the financial year ended 31 December 2020, I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements in relation to the audit
- (b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of The University of Fiji during the financial year.

*Ernst & Young*  
Ernst & Young  
Chartered Accountants

*Shaneel Nandan*  
Shaneel Nandan  
Partner  
Nadi, Fiji  
9<sup>th</sup> October 2021



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## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the Council of The University of Fiji

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

##### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The University of Fiji ("the University"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, the statement of comprehensive income and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the University as at 31 December 2020, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs).

##### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the University in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountant's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code)* together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Fiji and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

##### Other Information

The University Council and management are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises Council's report but does not include the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained during the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based upon the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Responsibilities of the University Council and management for Financial Statements

The University Council and management are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRS for SMEs, and for such internal control as the University Council and management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the University Council and management are responsible for assessing the University's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the University Council and management either intend to liquidate the University or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The University Council and management are responsible for overseeing the University's financial reporting process.





## Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud and error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- ▶ Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- ▶ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control.
- ▶ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- ▶ Conclude on the appropriateness of the University Council and management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the University's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures, are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the University to cease to continue as a going concern.
- ▶ Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with University Council and management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We communicate with those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.





### Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

#### Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the requirements of The University of Fiji Act 2011, in our opinion;

- a) proper books of account have been kept by the University, so far as it appears from our examination of those books
- b) the accompanying financial statements;
  - i. are in agreement with books of accounts
  - ii. to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, give the information required by The University of Fiji Act 2011 in the manner so required.

  
Ernst & Young  
Chartered Accountants

  
Shaneel Nandan  
Partner  
Nadi, Fiji  
9<sup>th</sup> October 2021

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Tuition fees	14	14,109,075	12,188,769
Amortisation of deferred income		213	213
Donations		11,164	16,283
Surplus from bookshop	13	1,018	3,975
Surplus from canteen		982	23,016
Government grant	14	2,487,652	3,604,726
Other income		396,010	330,249
		<u>17,006,114</u>	<u>16,167,231</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Advertising and marketing		182,368	312,357
Auditors' remuneration	3.1	23,546	19,849
Bad debts	3.1	390,472	372,274
Bank charges		30,853	36,155
Cleaning and sanitary		91,409	89,540
Council and other meeting cost		13,871	47,417
Depreciation and amortisation		925,132	866,262
Doubtful debts		129,169	(110,856)
Electricity		297,133	338,182
Fringe benefit tax		2,559	6,523
Fiji National Provident Fund - employer contributions		330,041	619,808
Fiji National University levy		10,115	10,750
Functions		17,209	61,269
General expenses	20	449,921	437,950
Graduation		4,217	24,777
Insurance		57,771	55,038
Interest	16	593,262	488,106
Legal fees		26,182	96,983
Learning, teaching and research		15,500	92,067
Photocopier rental		114,757	111,011
Rent and rates	18	427,999	344,168
Repairs and maintenance	17	226,190	457,360
Salaries and wages	15	7,627,580	9,818,863
Security		542,938	383,673
Stationery, printing and postage		85,562	162,527
Telephone, fax and internet		333,519	331,186
Traveling and accommodation	19	541,084	812,428
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>13,490,359</u>	<u>16,285,667</u>
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		3,515,755	(118,436)
Balance at the beginning		9,642,930	9,761,366
<b>Total accumulated funds</b>		<u>13,158,685</u>	<u>9,642,930</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this statement of activities and other comprehensive.



THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Trade and other receivables	4	3,184,405	2,611,352
Inventories	5	307,002	315,346
Prepayments and other assets	6	137,446	99,843
Cash and cash equivalents	12(ii)	1,615,677	-
		<u>5,244,530</u>	<u>3,026,541</u>
<b>Non current assets</b>			
Trade and other receivables	4	20,589	48,391
Property, plant and equipment	7	20,171,639	17,840,764
		<u>20,192,228</u>	<u>17,889,155</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>25,436,758</u>	<u>20,915,696</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Deferred income	2.2(j)	15,513	15,726
Trade and other payables	8	992,403	1,314,892
Employee benefits	9	450,984	751,659
Interest bearing borrowings	10	1,080,709	919,430
		<u>2,539,609</u>	<u>3,001,706</u>
<b>Non current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	421,678	421,678
Interest bearing borrowings	10	9,316,786	7,849,382
		<u>9,738,464</u>	<u>8,271,060</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>12,278,073</u>	<u>11,272,766</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>13,158,685</u>	<u>9,642,930</u>
<b>Accumulated funds</b>			
Accumulated funds	11	13,158,685	9,642,930
<b>Surplus in shareholders' equity</b>		<u>13,158,685</u>	<u>9,642,930</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this statement of financial position.

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Student fees		13,397,055	14,411,989
Government grants and donation		2,895,039	3,951,471
Other income		1,788	26,779
Payments to suppliers and employees		(12,457,616)	(15,059,865)
Interest and other costs of finance paid		(593,262)	(488,106)
<b>Net cash flows provided by operating activities</b>	12(i)	<u>3,243,004</u>	<u>2,842,268</u>
<b>Investing activities</b>			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		(793,858)	(729,518)
<b>Net cash flows (used in) investing activities</b>		<u>(793,858)</u>	<u>(729,518)</u>
<b>Financing activities</b>			
Proceed/(repayment) of related party advances		205,935	(2,224,274)
(Repayment) from interest bearing borrowings		(1,005,267)	(775,382)
<b>Net cash flows (used in) financing activities</b>		<u>(799,332)</u>	<u>(2,999,656)</u>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		1,649,814	(886,906)
Cash at bank at 1 January		(34,137)	852,769
<b>Cash at bank/(overdraft) at 31 December</b>	12(ii)	<u><u>1,615,677</u></u>	<u><u>(34,137)</u></u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this statement of cash flows.

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. Corporate information

The University of Fiji ("the University") is incorporated and domiciled in the Republic of the Fiji Islands. The financial statements of The University of Fiji for the year ended 31 December 2020 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Council members on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

2.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the University have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

The financial statements have been prepared under the convention of historical cost accounting and do not take into account changing money valued or current valuations of non-current assets unless stated otherwise. The financial statements are presented in Fijian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest dollars except when otherwise indicated.

2.2 Summary of significant accounting policies

a) Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are recognized at original invoice amount (inclusive of VAT) less any provision for uncollectible debts. Bad debts are written off during the year in which they become known. A specific provision is raised for any doubtful debts. Aggressive debtors collection is not practiced as the University plans to collect these by retaining graduation certificates unless full payment by the student or any other payment arrangement is made.

b) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprise cash at bank and short-term deposits with original maturities of one year or less. For the purpose of statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and short-term deposits as defined above, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

c) Property, plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is stated at cost, net of accumulated depreciation and/or accumulated impairment losses, if any. Such cost includes the cost of replacing part of the plant and equipment and borrowing costs for long term construction projects if the recognition criteria are met. When significant parts of property, plant and equipment are required to be replaced in intervals, the University recognises such parts as individual assets with specific useful lives and depreciation, respectively. Likewise, when a major inspection is performed, its cost is recognised in the carrying amount of the plant and equipment as a replacement if the recognition criteria are satisfied. All other repair and maintenance costs are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as incurred.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset as follows:

• Land	Amortised over the lease
• Building	1.25%
• Apparatus and equipment	10% and 20%
• Computers	33.33%
• Furniture and fittings	10%
• Books	20%

An item of property, plant and equipment and any significant part initially recognised is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset) is included in the statement of comprehensive income when the asset is derecognised.

The assets' residual values, useful lives and methods of depreciation are reviewed at each financial year end, and adjusted prospectively, if appropriate.

d) Inventories

Inventories have been valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value after allowances for damaged and obsolete inventory. Cost is determined on an average cost basis.



THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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2.2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

e) **Trade and other payables**

Liabilities for trade creditors and other amounts are carried at cost (inclusive of VAT where applicable) which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received whether or not billed to the entity. Amounts payable that have been translated to local currency using the rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial year.

f) **Value Added Tax (VAT)**

The University was VAT exempt and hence all revenue and expenses are VAT inclusive.

g) **Revenue recognition information**

Revenue comprises the fair value of the considerations received or receivable for the sale of goods and services in the ordinary course of the University's activities. Revenue is shown net of value-added tax, returns, rebates and discounts.

The University recognises revenue when the amount of the revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and when specific criteria have been met for each of the University's activities as described below. The amount of revenue is not considered to be reliably measurable until all contingencies relating to the sale have been resolved. The University bases its estimates on historical results, taking into consideration the type of customer, the type of transaction and the specifics of each arrangement.

Revenue is recognised for the major activities as follows:

i) **Government grants**

The University treats operating grants received from the Fiji Government as income in the year of receipt or when entitlement to the grant is established. Government grant in respect of capex are recognised initially as deferred income when there is reasonable assurance that they will be received and the University will comply with the conditions associated with the grant and are then recognised in profit or loss as income on a systematic basis over the useful life of the asset.

ii) **Project income**

Grants that compensate the University for expenses incurred are recognised in profit or loss as income on a systematic basis in the same periods in which the expenses are recognised.

iii) **Student tuition fees**

Student tuition fee income is generated from fee-paying courses for local and overseas students. Revenue is recognised in the same period as the courses for which the fee income is derived are held. Upfront payments by students for courses being held in the next teaching year are treated as deferred income and recorded as revenue in the following year as the course is provided.

iv) **Non tuition fees and charges**

Fees and charges comprise other services provided to students, which are recognised as the service is provided.

v) **Trading activities**

Revenue in respect of trading activities is recognised at the point of sale for goods, or as the service is performed.

vi) **Asset sales**

The net gain on asset sales is included as other income and the net loss as an expense. The profit or loss on disposal of assets is brought to account when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the assets have been transferred to the buyer.

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

h) **Foreign currencies**

Foreign currency transactions are translated to Fiji dollars at rates of exchange ruling at the dates of the transactions. Amounts receivable and payable in foreign currencies are converted to Fiji currency at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All exchange gains or losses whether realised or unrealised are included in the statement of comprehensive income.

i) **Income tax**

From 2011, the University is exempt from income tax in accordance with the provision of Section 17 of the Fiji Income Tax Act.

To write off deferred tax from prior years, tax effect accounting is adopted whereby the income tax expense is matched with the accounting profit after allowing for permanent differences. The future income tax benefit relating to tax losses and net cumulative timing differences in the University is not brought to account as an asset unless the benefit is virtually certain of realisation.

Income tax on University's net cumulative timing differences is set aside to the deferred tax account or future income tax benefit account at current rates.

j) **Deferred income**

Donations received in the form of property, plant and equipment is treated as deferred income which is recognised as income on a systematic basis over the useful life of the asset.

k) **Comparatives**

Where necessary, the comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation in the current year.

<b>3. Revenue and expenses</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>3.1 Operating expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Auditors' remuneration - audit	17,500	17,000
- non audit	6,046	2,849
Bad debts	390,472	372,274
Doubtful debts	129,169	(110,856)
Other operating costs	4,726,330	6,069,704
Total operating expenses	<u>5,269,517</u>	<u>5,978,697</u>
<b>3.2 Finance costs</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Interest on debt and borrowings	<u>593,262</u>	<u>488,106</u>
<b>4. Trade and other receivables</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Government receivable	-	528,565
Fees in arrears	3,777,348	2,574,366
Less provision for doubtful debts	<u>(592,943)</u>	<u>(491,579)</u>
	<u>3,184,405</u>	<u>2,611,352</u>
Student loan receivables	425,656	425,656
Less provision for doubtful debts	<u>(405,067)</u>	<u>(377,265)</u>
	<u>20,589</u>	<u>48,391</u>
	<u>3,204,994</u>	<u>2,659,743</u>
<b>Disclosed as:</b>		
Current	3,184,405	2,611,352
Non-current	<u>20,589</u>	<u>48,391</u>
	<u>3,204,994</u>	<u>2,659,743</u>

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

4. Trade and other receivables (continued)

As at 31 December 2020, trade receivables within initial value of \$413,978 (2019: \$483,130) were impaired and fully provided for. In addition, the University also fully written off bad debts of \$390,472.

Student loan receivables shall be recovered by the University as follows:

- (i) within three years following completion of undergraduate degree
- (ii) within eighteen months following completion of diploma or one year following completion of certificate
- (iii) for any other programme of study, within the equivalent period of time as that normally required for the completion of that programme of study, after the completion of that programme of study.

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
5. Inventories		
Bookshop	81,531	84,889
Gowns	225,471	230,457
Total inventories at the lower of cost and net realisable value	<u>307,002</u>	<u>315,346</u>

As at 31 December 2020, \$nil (2019: \$nil) was recognised as an expense for inventories write down.

	\$	\$
6. Prepayments and other assets		
Deposits	102,563	83,778
Prepayments	34,883	16,065
	<u>137,446</u>	<u>99,843</u>

7. Property, plant and equipment

	Leasehold land	Buildings and work in progress	Apparatus, equipment and computers	Furniture and fittings	Books	Total
Cost	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
At 1 Jan 2019	1,588,574	14,921,669	5,912,644	1,344,856	1,644,277	25,412,020
Additions	-	466,332	132,585	93,750	36,851	729,518
Transfers	-	-	383,530	-	-	383,530
At 31 December 2019	1,588,574	15,388,001	6,428,759	1,438,606	1,681,128	26,525,068
Additions	-	3,068,223	158,599	10,121	19,063	3,256,006
At 31 December 2020	<u>1,588,574</u>	<u>18,456,224</u>	<u>6,587,358</u>	<u>1,448,727</u>	<u>1,700,191</u>	<u>29,781,074</u>
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 Jan 2019	33,702	938,512	4,748,723	719,903	1,377,202	7,818,042
Depreciation charge	3,099	189,777	472,130	108,332	92,924	866,262
At 31 December 2019	36,801	1,128,289	5,220,853	828,235	1,470,126	8,684,304
Depreciation charge	3,099	223,691	523,807	98,321	76,213	925,131
At 31 December 2020	<u>39,900</u>	<u>1,351,980</u>	<u>5,744,660</u>	<u>926,556</u>	<u>1,546,339</u>	<u>9,609,435</u>
Net book value:						
At 31 December 2020	<u>1,548,674</u>	<u>17,104,244</u>	<u>842,698</u>	<u>522,171</u>	<u>153,852</u>	<u>20,171,639</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>1,551,773</u>	<u>14,259,712</u>	<u>1,207,906</u>	<u>610,371</u>	<u>211,002</u>	<u>17,840,764</u>

	\$	\$
8. Trade and other payables		
Creditors and accruals (current)	764,489	1,314,892
Unearned revenue - Government Grant	227,914	-
Student loans payable (non-current)	421,678	421,678
	<u>1,414,081</u>	<u>1,736,570</u>



THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
9. Employee leave liability		
Balance at 1 January	751,659	623,305
Arising during the year	618,258	827,194
Paid during the year	(918,933)	(698,840)
Balance at 31 December	450,984	751,659

A liability has been recognised for employee benefits associated with outstanding annual leave balances.

10. Interest bearing borrowings			\$	\$
<b>Current</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Maturity</b>		
Bank Overdraft		On demand	-	34,137
Westpac Banking Corporation	4.0%	2026	130,358	115,417
Westpac Banking Corporation	5.5%	2018	50,739	65,786
Westpac Banking Corporation	5.5%	2024	87,533	53,579
Westpac Banking Corporation	4.0%	2023	589,482	469,048
Westpac Banking Corporation	4.5%	2032	222,597	181,463
			1,080,709	919,430
<b>Non Current</b>				
Westpac Banking Corporation	4.0%	2026	2,648,038	3,317,618
Westpac Banking Corporation	5.5%	2024	220,467	370,418
Westpac Banking Corporation	4.0%	2023	356,496	493,611
Westpac Banking Corporation	4.5%	2032	2,141,581	2,385,615
Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji	5.5%	On demand	3,950,204	1,282,120
			9,316,786	7,849,382

(a) Details of securities of the interest-bearing loan from Westpac Banking Corporation:

The loan from Westpac Banking Corporation is guaranteed by the Trustees of the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji as mortgagor on the following properties:

- ▶ Registered First Mortgage given by the Borrower over Crown Lease 130305 being Property located at Lot 1 Wainibuku, Nasinu.
- ▶ Registered First Mortgage given by the Borrower over Native Lease 11105 being Property located at Burekalou, Airport Road, Nausori.
- ▶ Registered Second All Monies Mortgage given by the Borrower over Native Lease 35/209 being property located at Lautoka (also known as Vishnu Deo Memorial High School).
- ▶ Registered First Mortgage given by the Borrower over Native Lease 21299 being Property located at Queens Road, Saweni, Lautoka (Property is also known as University of Fiji).
- ▶ Registered Second All Monies Mortgage given by the Borrower over Native Lease 35/209 being property located at Lautoka (also known as Gurukul Indian School).
- ▶ Registered First Mortgage given by the Borrower over Housing Authority Lease 164935 being property located at Vomo Street, Drasa, Vitogo.
- ▶ Registered First Mortgage given by the Borrower over Certificate of Title 6207 being Property located at Lot 1, Yalalevu, Ba.
- ▶ Registered Second Mortgage given by the Borrower over Crown Lease 102489 being Property located at Lot 6, Tavua Township, Tavua.
- ▶ Registered First Mortgage given by the Borrower over Crown Lease 13116 being Property located at Lot 8, Maro, Sigatoka.
- ▶ Registered First All Monies Mortgage given by the Borrower over Certificate of Title 25684 on DP 6413, situated at 2 ½ miles Samabula, Suva (To Be Taken).

(b) Internal loans - Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji

Internal loans are loans from the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji at an interest rate of 5.5% that have been used to supplement the capital and operating requirements of the University. These loans are not due for repayment in the near future and the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji and its entities will continue to provide supplementary funding for ongoing financial requirements of the University.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**11. Accumulated funds**

The University operates under the "University of Fiji Act 2011" to serve the post secondary educational needs of the communities of Fiji and any other global communities' that wish to receive tertiary education at the University. The transfer of legal ownership from a University by guarantee to an educational institute has not been effected at the date of the financial statements.

**12. Notes to the statement of cash flows**

**(i) Reconciliation of surplus to net cash inflows from Operating Activities:**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Operating surplus/(deficit)	3,515,755	(118,436)
Add non-cash items:		
Amortisation of deferred income	(213)	(212)
Depreciation	925,132	866,262
Provision for doubtful debts	129,166	(483,130)
Net cash provided by operating activities before change in assets and	4,569,840	264,484
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Decrease in grant receivable	528,565	1,045,224
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(1,202,982)	1,178,236
(Increase) in prepayments and other assets	(37,603)	(240)
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	8,344	9,655
(Decrease)/increase in employee benefits	(300,675)	128,354
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other payables	(322,486)	216,555
<b>Net cash flows provided by operating activities</b>	<b>3,243,004</b>	<b>2,842,268</b>

**(ii) Reconciliation of cash:**

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash comprises of cash at bank. Cash as at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

Grant account	683,981	976
Operating account	930,296	(36,513)
Cash on hand	1,400	1,400
Cash at bank/(overdraft)	1,615,677	(34,137)

**13. Bookshop trading account**

	\$	\$
Bookshop sales	78,266	171,747
Less: Cost of Sales		
Opening stock	84,889	86,234
Purchases	54,862	144,275
Wages	19,028	22,152
	158,779	252,661
Less: Closing stock	(81,531)	(84,889)
	77,248	167,772
Surplus transferred to statement of comprehensive income	1,018	3,975

**14. Fees**

	\$	\$
Tuition fees	14,109,075	12,188,769
Government grant	2,487,652	3,604,726
	16,596,727	15,793,495

**15. Salaries and wages**

	\$	\$
Senior management	1,778,229	2,126,160
Administration and support staff	555,426	575,837
Per diems	128,412	354,562
Academic staff	5,165,513	6,762,304
	7,627,580	9,818,863

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
<b>16. Interest</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Interest on bank loans	376,827	404,861
Interest on internal loans	216,435	83,245
	<u>593,262</u>	<u>488,106</u>
<b>17. Repairs and maintenance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Building maintenance	112,824	168,131
Compound maintenance	30,044	53,510
Equipment maintenance	83,322	235,719
	<u>226,190</u>	<u>457,360</u>
<b>18. Rent and rates</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Land rental	23,599	26,852
Office rental - administration/finance	396,794	307,480
Water rates	7,606	9,836
	<u>427,999</u>	<u>344,168</u>
<b>19. Travelling and accommodation</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Local traveling and accommodation	495,358	749,724
Overseas travelling and accommodation	45,726	62,704
	<u>541,084</u>	<u>812,428</u>
<b>20. General expense</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Sub OHS	344,009	232,839
Medical	10,236	26,143
Hire charges	87,104	114,104
Staff development	8,572	64,864
	<u>449,921</u>	<u>437,950</u>

**21. Related party disclosures**

The following were Council members during the financial year and up to the date of this report:

- ▶ Pt. Kamlesh Arya - Pro Chancellor & Chair of Council
- ▶ Professor Shaista Shameem
- ▶ Mr. Arun Padarath
- ▶ Pt. Bhuwan Dutt
- ▶ Mr. Jagdish Chand
- ▶ Mr. Parnesh Sharma
- ▶ Mr. Ravindra Varman
- ▶ Mr. Chandar Sen
- ▶ Mr. Balwant Singh
- ▶ Mr. Netani Druavesi
- ▶ Mr. Manhar Narsey
- ▶ Ratu Meli Tora
- ▶ Mr. Agni Deo Singh
- ▶ Mr. Sarju Prasad
- ▶ Mr. Uday Raju
- ▶ Mr. Bayant Singh
- ▶ Dr. Anjeela Jokhan
- ▶ Ratu Sailosi Dawai
- ▶ Mr. Mohammed Farik
- ▶ Dr. Rajnesh Sant
- ▶ Dr. Claire Slatter
- ▶ Ms. Jane Ricketts
- ▶ Mr. Ravneet Charan

**THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
<b>21. Related party disclosures (continued)</b>		
<u>Related party balances</u>		
Included in payables at year end is the following related party balances:		
(a) <u>Non-current</u>	\$	\$
Internal loan from the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji	<u>3,950,204</u>	<u>1,282,120</u>
During the year, Shiksha (Fiji) Limited traded with its related entities, the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji and Pundit Vishnu Deo Memorial College. The amounts included in the determination of net surplus that resulted from transactions with related entity were as follows:		
	\$	\$
<u>Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji</u>		
Interest on internal loan	<u>216,435</u>	<u>83,245</u>
<u>Key management compensation</u>		
Salaries and wages	<u>1,285,363</u>	<u>1,174,709</u>
<b>22. Principal business activities</b>		
The principal activities of the University in the course of the financial year was to provide tertiary education for foundation, undergraduate, postgraduate and general education under the trading name of the University of Fiji.		
<b>23. Contingent liabilities</b>	\$	\$
Contingent liabilities at balance date are as follows:-		
(i) Indemnity guarantee provided for immigration bond	244,781	226,039
(ii) Indemnity guarantee provided for staff bond	-	-
(iii) Pending claim for a litigation matter	-	-
	<u>244,781</u>	<u>226,039</u>
<b>24. Expenditure commitments</b>	\$	\$
(a) Capital expenditure commitments	<u>3,000,000</u>	<u>3,000,000</u>
(b) Operating lease commitments	\$	\$
Not later than one year	410,400	140,400
Later than one year but not later than two years	-	410,400
Later than one year but not later than five years	-	-
	<u>410,400</u>	<u>550,800</u>
(c) Finance leases - \$nil (2019: \$nil)		
<b>25. Events subsequent to balance date</b>		
No matters or circumstances have arise since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the University, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the University in future financial years.		
<b>26. Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak on the University</b>		
During the year, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak has developed rapidly, bringing a significant health impact globally. Measures taken to contain the virus are already having a significant impact on global markets and economic activity and Fiji is also feeling the impact with business disruption and levels of activity already reducing in several market sectors.		
The University has remained operational since this declaration and continues to engage in its principal activities. We have not seen a significant impact on our business to date. The outbreak and the response of Governments in dealing with the pandemic is interfering with general activity levels within the community, the economy and the operations of our business.		
The Council members and management are carefully considering the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the University, and assessing future operational options. The financial impacts, however, cannot be reasonably estimated at this time, as they will be largely the product of matters the University cannot control.		



**THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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**26. Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak on the University (continued)**

The Council members and management believe the University have sufficient financial resources together with arrangements with their customers and suppliers at this time to be able to successfully manage their business risks despite the current uncertain economic outlook due to the COVID-19 outbreak. They have a reasonable expectation that the University have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

**27. Significant events during the year - change in the University Structure**

The University Council was advised by Sabha in June 2020 that The University of Fiji is now to be recorded as an entity of the Sabha on official documents, as is required by the University Act 26 of 2011 and not as an entity of Shiksha ( Fiji) Limited. This was based on a legal opinion sought by the Board of Directors of Shiksha ( Fiji) Limited.

**28. (a) Loan scheme**

This scheme is operated by The University of Fiji's Loans Committee as per the approval of the Council and specific request of the donors. Scholarships are granted on application to students who are facing financial hardship but demonstrate academic excellence.

**28. (b) Students loan funds**

This fund is operated by The University of Fiji's Scholarships and Loans Committee as per the approval of the Council. The students loan fund is a pool of donor funds which are disbursed as loans to students who face financial hardships but have satisfactory academic performance. Recipients enter into an undertaking to repay.

**29. University Details**

**University Incorporation**

The University was incorporated in Fiji under the University Act 2011

**Registered office**

Pt Vishnu Deo Memorial College

Saweni

Lautoka

Principal place of business

Saweni

The University of Fiji  
Private Mail Bag, Lautoka  
Fiji Islands

Saweni Campus  
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Mobile: (679) 999 9100

Samabula Campus  
Telephone: (679) 337 3614  
Mobile: (679) 999 9111