



The University of Fiji
(An Entity of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji)



FUTURE READY



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2024**



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Fiji acknowledges and honours the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji, the Founders of the institution.

The University of Fiji values and respects all staff and students who choose to pursue higher education here, at every level.

The University of Fiji recognises and respects the traditional owners of the land where our campuses are located.

All staff and students at The University of Fiji are committed to understanding and respecting the Gurukul/Drua philosophical dialectic, in alignment with The University's Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

As researchers, educators, professional staff, and learners, we are fortunate to engage daily with our scholarly community, rooted in the ancient yet timeless principles of the "universitas magistrorum et scholarium" tradition.

This Annual Report for 2024 has been created in a spirit of unity, inclusiveness, transparency, and collegiality at The University of Fiji, detailing our achievements in line with our vision, mission, and goals for the year.



**TO STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND FRIENDS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF FIJI,**

In accordance with the regulations of the Higher Education Commission Act 2008, we are pleased to submit for your information The University of Fiji's Annual Report for the year 2024.



Pro-Chancellor



Vice-Chancellor

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Fiji was established by the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji. The University is governed and regulated by The University of Fiji Act 2011 to provide local, regional, and international post-secondary education.

The University is registered with the Higher Education Commission Fiji. It is also recognised as a University by the statutory Higher Education Commission Fiji (HECF), under the premise of the Higher Education Act 2008.

The University of Fiji provides five Schools and one Centre which are:

- Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UPSM&HS);
- Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law (JDPSoL);
- School of Business and Economics (SoBE);
- School of Science and Technology (SoST);
- School of Humanities and Arts (SoHA); and
- Centre for iTaukei Studies (CIS).

The University offers programmes through its Schools and Centre at the Certificate, Diploma, Undergraduate, and Postgraduate levels. All programmes have attained recognition and registration with the HECF.

The University has three campuses, with the main Campus in Saweni, Lautoka. The other two campuses are in Samabula, Suva and Ba. The University of Fiji in December opened an office, "University House", in Levuka.



VISION

MISSION

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.

- 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 partnership in research projects and research-based education.
- To value academic freedom and foster The University of Fiji's role as a critic and conscience of society.
- To be a model employer through just and fair practices, 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 in academia, finance, human resources, information technology services, local and international student experience, and facilities.



CORE VALUES

The core values of The University of Fiji are to be:

Innovative – The University of Fiji supports innovation and reforms that will fulfil its mission, advance its vision, and integrate its values by encouraging personalised learning and pedagogy/heutagogy that recognises living and learning in a technology - rich world;

Flexible – The University of Fiji promotes flexibility in the pursuit of theoretical and practical knowledge while encouraging a life well-lived, and a lifelong philosophy of informed, creative thinking and attitudes to meet evolving challenges and opportunities;

Affordable – The University of Fiji is considerate of the socio-economic status of the students and offers an affordable learning environment. The University demonstrates this commitment by sustaining low tuition fees and offering structured payment plans and providing a University student loan scheme;

Contemporary – The University of Fiji is contemporary in nature and offers exciting programmes that will equip students with the skills, knowledge, and experience to support the next generation of children and young people;

Futuristic – The University is futuristic in scope and endeavours to integrate technologies, engage students in ways not previously conceivable, create new learning and teaching possibilities, enhance achievement, and extend interactions with local and global communities; and

Values and Civic Orientation – The University is inclusive to all and has respect for human values and ethics and, in particular, respects the values of the Founders, the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji.

INNOVATIVE

FLEXIBLE

AFFORDABLE

CONTEMPORARY

FUTURISTIC

VALUES
AND CIVIC
ORIENTATION

FOREWORD BY THE

PRO-CHANCELLOR AND CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL



It is with great pleasure that I present this message in The University of Fiji's 2024 Annual Report. I was appointed as the Interim Pro-Chancellor of the University on 2nd March 2024 and substantive Pro-Chancellor on 4th May 2024. I have been observing the progress of the University more closely since then.

The University of Fiji was established in December 2004 by the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji. The first group of students began classes in March 2005. I am grateful that the Sabha has continued to support the University throughout.

I am also thankful to the government for providing grants over the years. I extend our gratitude also to members of the public who have been supporting the University in any way possible.

As an institution dedicated to serving the needs of Fiji and the wider Pacific region, we have remained steadfast in our mission to provide quality education that is accessible, relevant, and globally competitive.

Our staff and students continue to inspire us with their resilience, creativity, and dedication to knowledge and service.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the University Council, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Shaista Shameem and the management team, staff, including the ancillary staff, and students for their dedication and hard work. With a strong foundation and a clear vision, The University of Fiji will continue to thrive and make a meaningful difference in the lives of our people.

It is pleasing to note that the current Strategic Plan of the University has been closely followed with regular reporting of progress in each area of activity to the Council. Good planning and implementation of the plan is vital for the maintenance of focus on where we are heading.

Discussion is underway for the preparation of a new Master Plan for the development of the University. This is an important and urgent exercise to ensure that our limited land resources are carefully utilised.

The University places great emphasis on the practice of good human, moral, and ethical values in all aspects of its operations. The Council strongly believes that these values are vital for the success of graduates when they go out into their various fields of work. Thus, they are trained to be future-ready to make their contributions to serving the people, wherever they may find employment.

On behalf of the Council, I thank all our supporters and look forward to their assistance so that our students continue to receive the best possible education.



Pundit Bhuwan Dutt, OF "Arya Ratna"

Diploma in Land Surveying at University of Otago NZ
Diploma in Development Studies at Cambridge University,
United Kingdom

FOREWORD BY THE

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND CHAIR OF THE SENATE



The University of Fiji in 2024 came of age. As Vice Chancellor for my second term I can congratulate staff and students for an incredibly superb performance despite the struggles and hardships we faced over the past 20 years of the University's existence.

For that we have to pay tribute first to the Founders, the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji, providers of seamless top quality education in primary and secondary schools since early colonial times and tertiary education through the establishment of The University of Fiji in the mid 2000s.

We also pay tribute to the first substantive Vice Chancellor, Professor Rajesh Chandra, the first Registrar, Ms Sarojini Pillay, and the first Council and Senate. Subsequent governance and operational frameworks were built on those solid foundations and now, as we report on 2024 Strategic Plan Outputs and Outcomes in this Annual Report, I can say with some confidence that we can be proud of the University's achievements to date. We have graduated 7944 students since first opening our doors.

The secret of our success has to be the human values foundation of the of the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha exhibited in the gurukul and drua combined educational perspective that the University has overtly embraced since 2022 through our 5 year Strategic Plan.

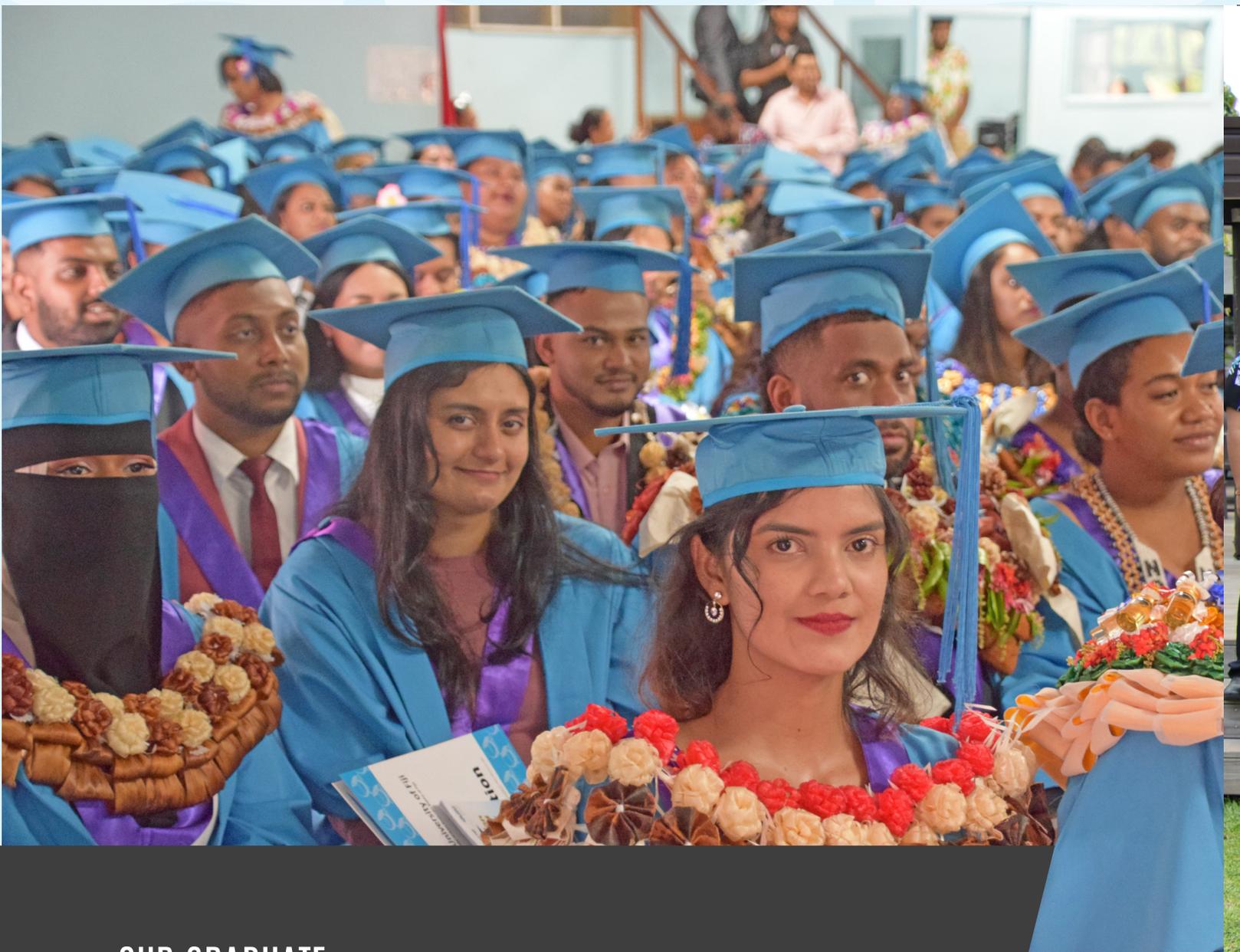
When human values become the raison d'être of an educational system, it means the nation itself is on a solid knowledge-based path to success.

In 2025 the University will self-evaluate its Strategic Plan Outcomes for nation-building. We wish to provide some measureable results to fortify our belief that the solutions to Fiji's challenges lie within The University of Fiji. We lead by example. It is the only lesson we can confidently promote for the good of all.



Professor Shaista Shameem,

Doctorate in Juridical Science (SJD), PhD Waikato, LLM
Auckland, MA Canterbury, LLB Waikato,
BA S.Pac, FRSA (Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts)



OUR GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

A University of Fiji graduate will:

- Be a creative and strategic thinker;
- Have strong interpersonal skills;
- Be ICT literate;
- Have an enterprising ability;
- Have an internationally orientated mind-set;
- Have an environmentally responsible attitude;
- Be committed to ethical, human and social values; and
- Have allegiance to The University of Fiji, appreciate and promote its values and focus, and become its best ambassadors.

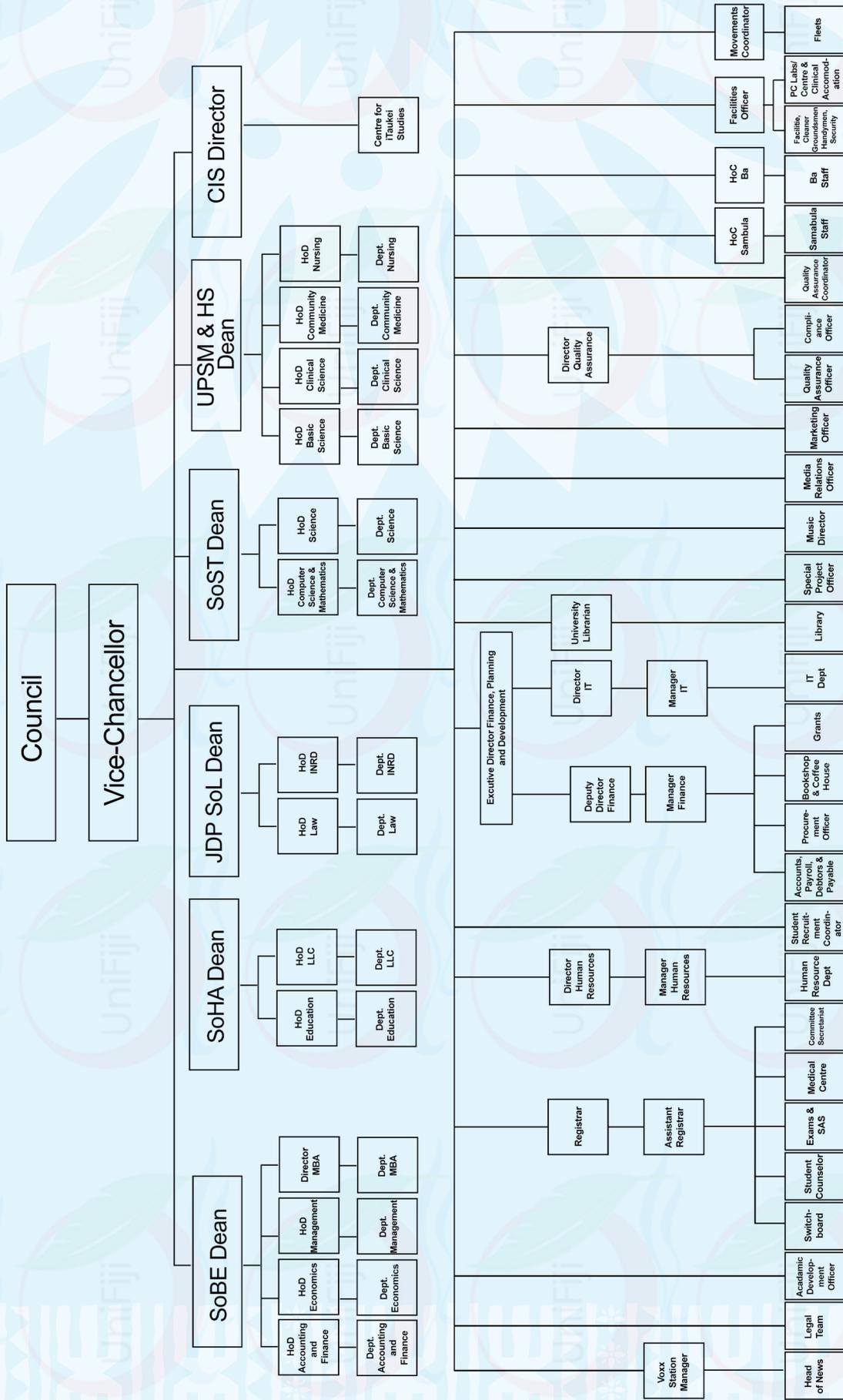


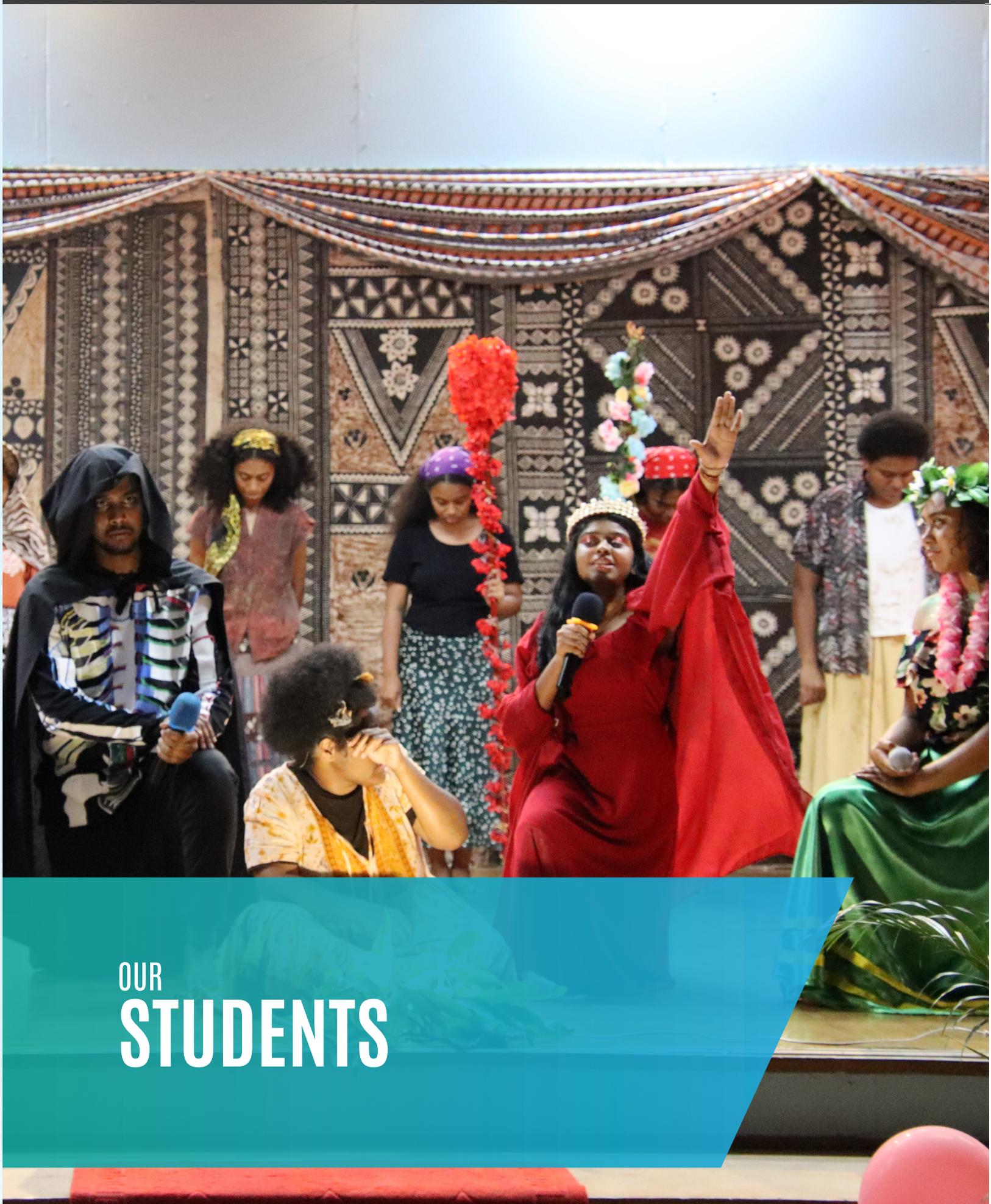
OUR STAFF ATTRIBUTES

A University of Fiji staff member will:

- Show deep intellectual capacity;
- Be a creative and strategic thinker;
- Have an appropriate attitude towards work/life balance;
- Have allegiance to the University;
- Provide student-friendly service; and
- Be ethical in conduct and attitudes with respect for and promotion of human values

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE





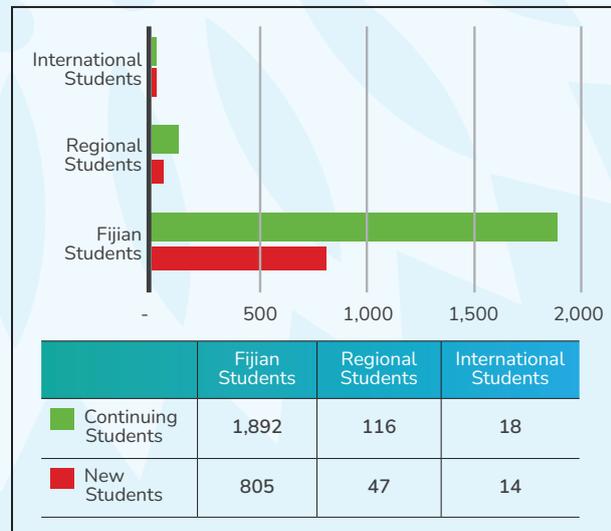
OUR
STUDENTS

STATISTICS

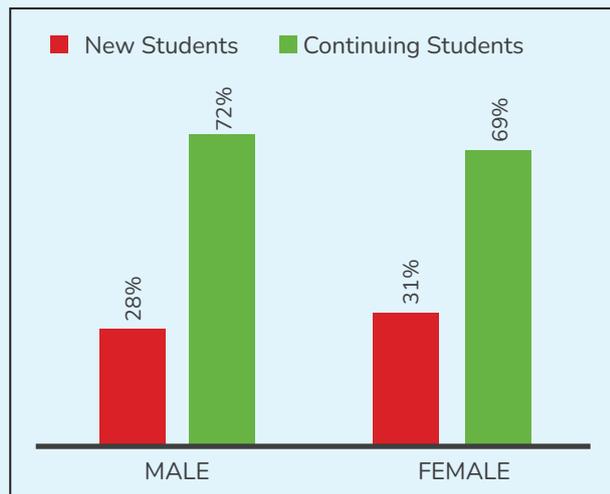
STUDENT ENROLLMENT

| School/Centre | Headcount 2024 |
|---|----------------|
| School of Business and Economics (SoBE) | 316 |
| School of Humanities & Arts (SoHA) | 608 |
| Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law (JPDSol) | 494 |
| School of Science & Technology (SoST) | 278 |
| Umanand Prasad School of Medicine & Health Sciences (UPSM&HS) | 1093 |
| Centre for iTaukei Studies (CIS) | 5 |
| Unclassified Studies | 98 |

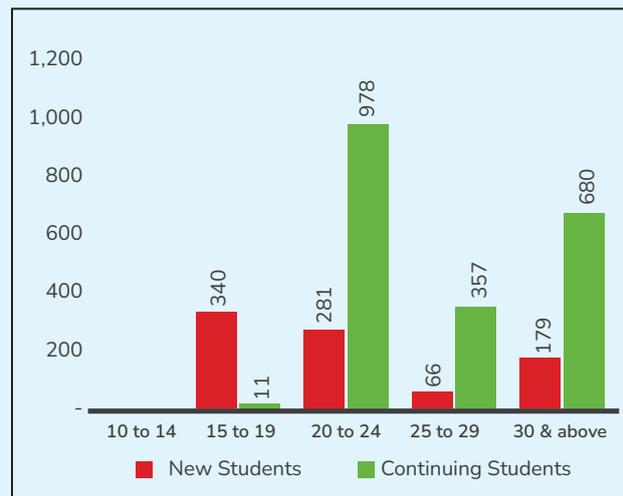
NATIONALITY BY HEADCOUNT



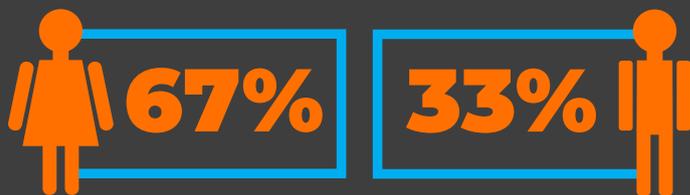
GENDER BY HEADCOUNT



AGE BY HEADCOUNT



TOTAL RATIO BY GENDER



RATIO BY NATIONALITY

93% FIJIAN
6% REGIONAL
1% INTERNATIONAL

GRADUATE DATA

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

86

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & ARTS

201

JUSTICE DEVENDRA PATHIK SCHOOL OF LAW

185

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

50

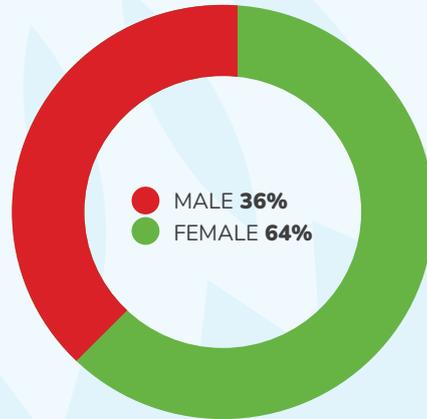
UMANAND PRASAD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

183

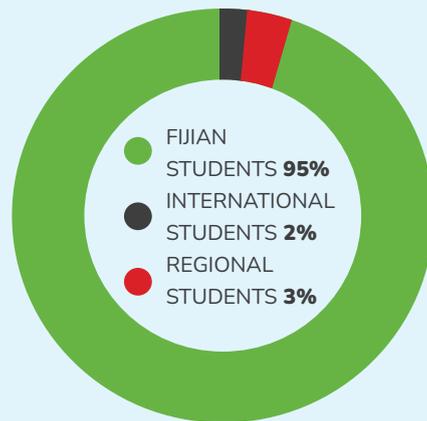
CENTRE FOR ITAUKEI STUDIES

4

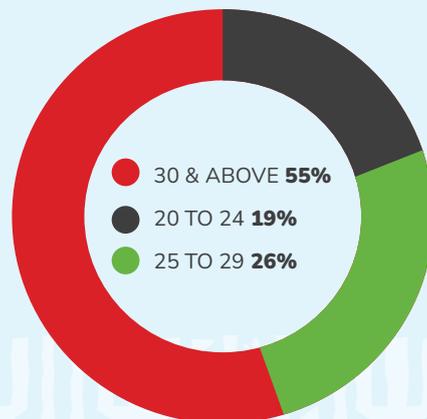
GRADUATE GENDER BY HEADCOUNT



NATIONALITY BY HEADCOUNT



AGE BY HEADCOUNT

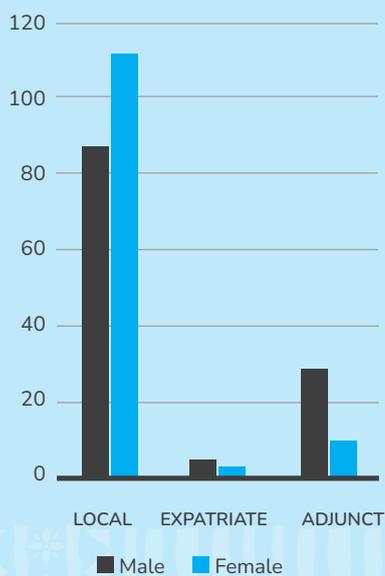


STAFF STATISTICS

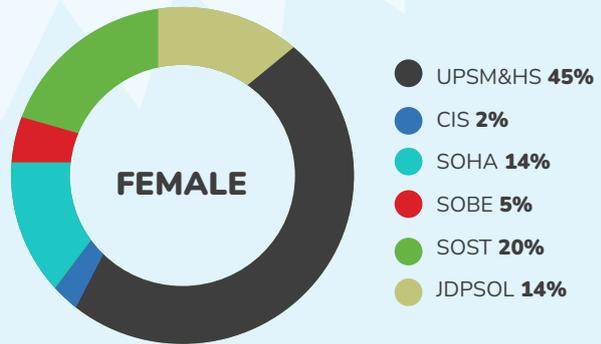
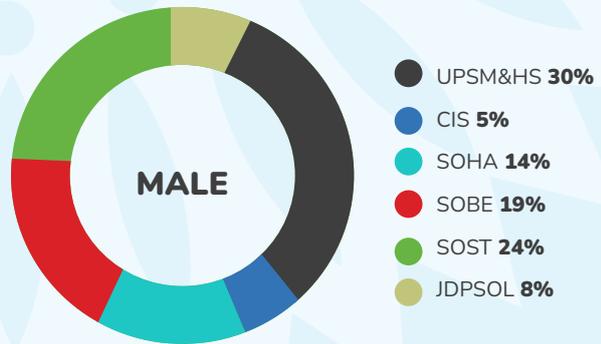
Our goal for our staff is to support, empower and inspire each other to deliver excellence by creating opportunities for our team to excel; developing capability; recognising achievements; and building a healthy, equitable and inclusive university culture.

45% MALE

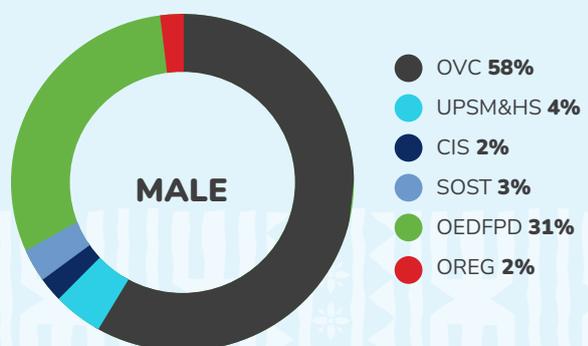
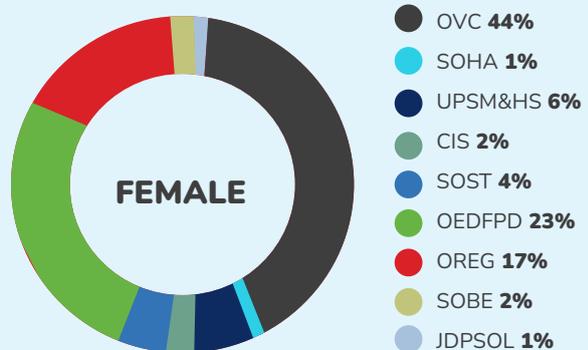
55% FEMALE



ACADEMIC STAFF



NON-ACADEMIC STAFF





GOVERNANCE

The University of Fiji is governed by a Council, which consists of the main education stakeholders in Fiji, as well as prominent community and business leaders as established in The University of Fiji Act 2011.

COUNCIL

The University Council is the executive governing body. It is responsible for the management, administration, and general control over the conduct of the University. The Council has powers to delegate its functions and responsibilities to sub committees.

Its functions include to:

- Be the executive governing body and be responsible for the management and administration of the revenue and property of the University;
- Have general control over the conduct of the affairs including disciplinary matters;
- Have the custody, control and disposition of all movable and expendable property, funds, fees and investment of the University;
- Strive to attain the highest standards of excellence in education, teaching and learning, training and research;
- Require the preparation and revision of the strategic plan and funding needs;
- Ensure that the University is managed in accordance with the law, the general principles of good governance and the existing social policies of the Sabha;
- Engage in joint venture activities;
- Determine all fees and charges to be paid;
- Establish policies and procedures for accountability;
- Have custody of the seal and regulate the use of the seal;
- Prescribe or regulate the status, appointment and continuance in Office of the Vice-Chancellor or Officers of the University; and
- Refer to Senate any matter which Council considers to bear directly on the academic responsibilities of the Senate

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

Ex-Officio Members: Section 13 (1) of UniFiji Act 2011 ***The Pro-Chancellor and The Chair of Council—*** **Section 13 (1) (a)**

Pt. Bhuwan Dutt, OF 'Arya Ratna'
Pt. Kamlesh Arya, OF 'Arya Ratna' - till 2 March 2024

The Vice-Chancellor - Section 13 (1) (b) Professor Shaista Shameem

15 Appointed Members—Section 13 (2) of UniFiji Act 2011

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

Mr. Arun Padarath
Pt. Bhuwan Dutt, OF 'Arya Ratna'
Mr. Balwant Singh
Mr. Chandra Sen
Mr. Ravindra Varman
Mr. Ravneel Singh
Mrs. Lila Shankar

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. Bayant Singh, Sikh Association of Fiji
Mr. Dharendra Nand, Shree Sanatan Dharm Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji
Mr. Manhar Narsey, Gujarat Education Society 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. Selina Kuruleca (till October)
Ratu Meli Nacuva (Acting PS for Education)
Mr. Naipolione Locoloco (Representative)

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

Professor Aziz Mohammed

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

Mr. Rodney Vakaloloma

An Elected Non-Professorial member of the academic staff elected by the non-professorial staff—Section 13 (3) of the Act:

Mr. Shivneil Raj

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

Dr. Diva Kamlesh Singh

Secretary: Registrar, Section 11 (3) of the Act

Ms. Nathasha Mudaliar (Acting Registrar)

In Attendance

Dr. Ravineet Sami (EDFPD)

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI COUNCIL MEMBERS



Standing: Professor Aziz Mohammed, Mr. Shivneil Raj, Mr. Dharendra Nand, Dr. Diva Kamlesh Singh, Mr. Netani Druavesi, Mr. Rodney Vakaloloma

Sitting: Ratu Meli Tora, Mr. Manhar Narsey, Mr. Ravneel Singh, Professor Shaista Shameem (Vice-Chancellor), Pt. Bhuwan Dutt, OF 'Arya Ratna' (Pro-Chancellor), Mrs. Lila Shankar, Mr. Arun Padarath, Mr. Ravindra Varman

SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

The Council is served by a network of Committees with special responsibilities. The Council convened for three (3) sittings this year.

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Finance Committee
- Physical Planning and Development Committee
- Scholarships and Loans Committee
- Staff Policy Committee
- Staff Review/Promotions Committee
- Tender Committee
- Appointments Committee

SENATE

The Senate is the academic authority of the University and is responsible for teaching, consultancy, research and other academic work of the University, for ensuring the quality of teaching and learning, consultancy, research and other work, and for the regulation and superintendence of education, training and discipline of students.

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

Vice-Chancellor, Chair (Section 21 (1) (a) of the Act).

Professor Shaista Shameem

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

Pt Bhuwan Dutt

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

Professor Shaista Shameem

- Dean Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law

Professor Tupeni Baba

- Dean School of Humanities and Arts (till July 2024)

Associate Professor Dr. Wahab Ali

- Acting Dean School of Humanities and Arts (from July 2024) Professor Kishor Meher

- Acting Dean School of Business and Economics

Dr. Abhijit Gogoi

- Acting Dean Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences

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

Professor Shawkat Ali

Professor Aziz Mohammed

Professor Kishore Meher

Professor Dan Orcherton

Professor Ifereimi Waqainabete

Appointed Members (Section 26 (2) of the Act)**Heads of Departments**

Dr. Navneel Prasad - Head of Management

Professor Kishor Meher - Head of Accounting

Associate Professor Murage Ranasinghe – Head of Economics

Dr. Ramendra Prasad - Head of Science

Mr. Neeraj Sharma - Acting Head of Computer Science and Mathematics (from October 2024)

Professor Shawkat Ali - Head of Computer Science and Mathematics (till October 2024)

Dr. Kamala Naiker – Head of Languages, Literature and Communication

Associate Professor Dr. Wahab Ali -Head of Education

Dr. Ricardo Corpuz - Head of Basic Sciences

Dr. Robert Bancod - Head of Clinical Services

Dr. Samuela Korovou - Head of Community Medicine

Dr. Akisi Ravono - Nursing Coordinator

Directors of Centres (Section 26 (2) (b))

Mr. Usaia Gaunavou - Acting Director CIS

University Librarian (Section 26 (2) (c))

Ms. Ela Volatabu Qica - University Librarian- From 4 November 2024

Ms. Masiran Kutty - Acting University Librarian till 3 November 2024

One member of the Executive from the Student Association appointed by the Executives of the Student Association

Mr.Rodney Vakaloloma - UFSA Vice President

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

Vacant

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

Ms. Nathasha Mudaliar - Acting Registrar

In Attendance

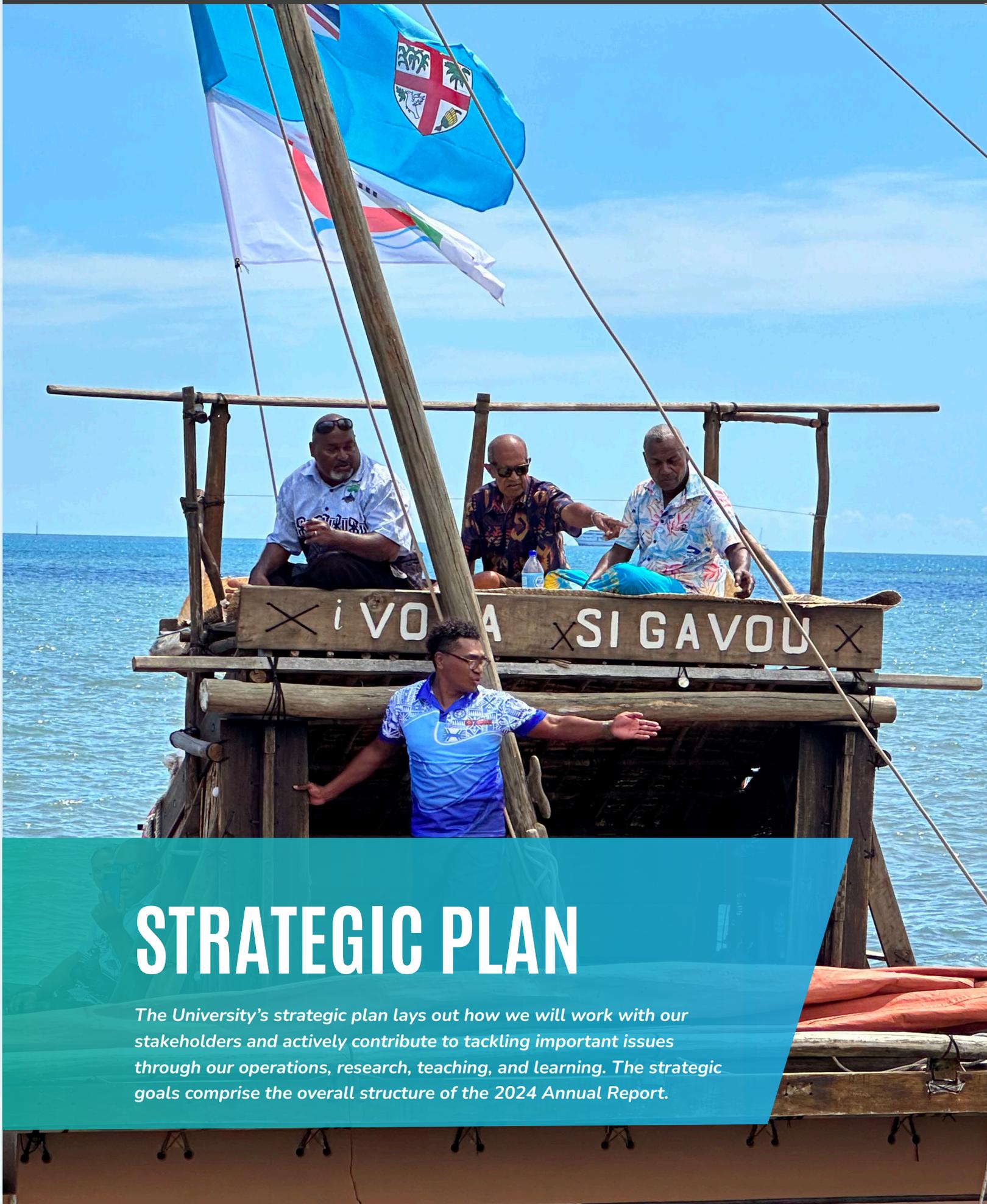
Dr. Ravineet Sami - Executive Director Finance, Planning & Development

The Senate convened six (6) times this year and the Senate's Sub-committees were convened regularly over the year.

SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

The Senate is the academic authority of the University and is responsible to the Council for teaching and learning, consultancy, research and other academic work. The implementation of the Senate's role is carried out under the Senate Sub-Committees:

- External Advisors Committee
- Information and Communications Technology Committee
- Library Advisory Committee
- Medals and Prizes Awards Committee
- Post Graduate Committee
- Publications Committee
- Research Committee
- Academic Programme Development Committee
- Board of Studies (School/Centre)
- Office Utilisation Committee
- Learning and Teaching Committee
- Graduation Organising Committee



STRATEGIC PLAN

The University's strategic plan lays out how we will work with our stakeholders and actively contribute to tackling important issues through our operations, research, teaching, and learning. The strategic goals comprise the overall structure of the 2024 Annual Report.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

In 2024, Schools and the Centre for iTaukei Studies of the University embraced heutagogy as the core teaching methodology, with classes held in various professional environments such as courtrooms, parliaments, health centres, farms, military barracks, hospitals, and police training academies, minimising traditional lecture room use. This approach, reinforced by workshops on pedagogy and heutagogy for staff, has enhanced student performance, confidence, and employability, particularly through the inclusion of practitioners in the teaching cadre.

The academic performance of students at the University was closely monitored as Academic Advisors were assigned to all students. At risk students had interviews with the Dean and Academic Advisors were done, and steps were taken to support and guide students. The University's Academic Advisors initiative has led the University to reach a retention rate of 89.9% in 2024.

The University Academics organised a curriculum vitae writing, interview competencies, and the cultivation of soft skills workshop where students received practical instruction on the formulation of professional CVs, the intricacies of interview etiquette, and the development of critical soft skills necessary for success in the professional arena. The workshop was designed to align with the overarching mission of the University, which is committed to fostering future-ready graduates. The workshop attracted participation from a diverse array of Schools within the University.

The School of Business and Economics hosted its Annual Awards Night on November 20th at Saweni Campus. The prestigious event celebrated students across all levels who demonstrated exceptional performance in their programmes, acknowledging their hard work and dedication to their studies. The main sponsor of the event was Jacks of Fiji with other key sponsors such as Sun Insurance Fiji Company Limited, Ernst & Young Fiji, Punjas & Sons Limited, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

The goal of learning and teaching encompasses quality, rigorous, and relevant research-based content delivery in the classrooms for our undergraduate and postgraduate students to meet national and international standards. The School employs HyFlex modalities through the Top Hat platform in the delivery of all its programmes. The Top Hat platform is a comprehensive assessment platform that helps students learn better before, during, and after class.

The Top Hat platform made learning fun and engaging and connected the students with their professors and their peers with relevant and engaging content.

Teaching staff at the University participate in an interactive lunchtime seminar series called the Brown Bag Seminar Series Programme to share their research and innovative/creative teaching techniques in order to keep all staff members up to date on their work. This expands the intellectual horizons of the University Community, supporting academic freedom and the spread of ideas, research, theories, and applications. Brown Bag Seminar highlights in 2024 included:

- Gender Perspectives in Family Law
- Borderlands of History and Imagination: An Indo-Fijian Woman's Perspective
- From Zero to Hero - Running Alongside Usain Bolt
- Liver Disease
- Building a Healthy Mindset: Critical for Well-Being and Happiness
- Fiji Hindi: A Plantation Language
- Adopting HyFlex Modality in Higher Education: The UniFiji Experience Reconciling The Dual Worldviews Of Ancient Wisdom And Modernity: Collaborative-Learning Implications For Future Discourse
- Hoarding Syndrome
- Decarbonising Fiji shipping, a once-in-a-generation opportunity
- Education and Female Labor Force Participation in Sri Lanka
- Does the psychological well-being of Male and Female tourism-reliant workers differ during a crisis such as COVID-19?
- Bidesia: Migration, Change and Folk Culture
- Lokgeet: Composition and Change
- Potentials of Enhanced Economic Cooperation between Fiji and Indonesia Nocturnal Enigmas: A Comprehensive Review of Bangungot and Sudden Death During Sleep
- Trust-building in the climate negotiations
- Unravelling Climate Change: The Science and Its Impact on Our Planet Adaptation to Climate Change
- Climate Change Impacts on the Ocean and Marine Resources
- An "Early Childhood Development": Fiji Insight
- Strategic Health Analysing the Cognitive and Physical Benefits of Chess on Overall Well-Being



- HIV Point-of-Care Testing: A timely opportunity for UniFiji
- Buddhist Economics: An alternative for neo-liberalism?
- Climate Change Mitigation: Estimating and Reducing Emissions
- 21st Century Challenges for Education Policy Makers in Developing Countries
- Suicide and Suicidality in Fiji: A Scoping Review
- Reflections in Practice
- Trade Flows of Melanesian Spearhead Group and Efforts towards Economic Integration
- Does Cultural Entrepreneurship lead to Myth recollection? A Case of the Red Prawns of Vatulele
- Understanding Drug Interactions (DI): Impact on Efficacy and Safety of Medications
- Training System in Fiji
- Conceptual Framework of IASB on User Perspective: A Legitimacy Theory Perspective

Experts and professionals in their own fields were employed to support teaching and learning in the Schools as Part-time Lecturers or Adjunct Lecturers/ Professors in order to bolster the University's educator and teaching component.

Students in Fiji and abroad now have improved access to education and opportunities as The University of Fiji and The University of Bradford inaugurated a Peace Garden in Levuka, which aims to foster higher education through joint projects in formal and informal learning.

The collaboration was formalised through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Universities and was witnessed by the citizens of Levuka, Chiefs of Ovalau and Moturiki, and fellows of the Royal Society of Arts.

To further support education in the region, The University of Fiji has opened an office in Levuka to assist local students and provide broader educational services to the people of Ovalau and Moturiki.

The University of Fiji's office was officially opened by the Acting British High Commissioner to Fiji, Her Excellency Nicola Noble. The students from Levuka through Top Hat platform would be able to attend lectures from their own locations, which will minimise transport and accommodation needs. In order to give students access to the greatest experts in the field, the University invited Ovalau's traditional leaders to become Adjunct Professors.



STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES & STUDENT AFFAIRS

The goal of Student Support Services and Student Affairs is to empower our students with the tools to become effective leaders and global citizens. The University assists in facilitating a transformative educational experience (pedagogy/heutagogy) to make students future leaders of the world through its various programmes.

The University provides a robust student support system through the appointment of Academic Advisors and a Student Affairs Coordinator who assists the students through flexible consultation arrangements. The University staff are continuously and consistently in contact with students using various platforms, such as Top Hat chat messages. At The University of Fiji, staff believe in the motto “no student left behind”. Staff contacted students to encourage them to complete their courses for their respective programmes. Academic Advisors played a crucial role in contacting, advising, and motivating students to attend all the classes taken during the semester and emphasised the need to improve their GPA.

The University staff are constantly involved in the enrolment, admission, and recruitment of students. Together with the marketing team, the Schools and Centre participate in the University Road Shows, The University of Fiji’s Open Day, school visits, and the Orientation Programme. To potential students and their parents, these events highlight The University of Fiji’s distinctiveness.

The JDP School of Law Students Association (SOLSA) has successfully achieved The University of Fiji Student Association (UFSA) affiliation, with UFSA now actively providing support at the Samabula Campus. On April 5th, Acting Chief Justice Salesi Temo presided over the Bar Admission Ceremony for 10 School of Law graduates. Five University of Fiji students, including four from the JDP School of Law, were selected as Junior Fellows of the prestigious Royal Society of Arts.

KPMG Accounting Firm conducted a pre-placement talk for the Accounting final-year graduating students at the campus, aiming to provide insights into potential career pathways. Additionally, Ernst & Young facilitated a campus recruitment interview on September 15th, which engaged the final-year graduating cohort.

Throughout the academic year, several organisations, including TSLS, Fiji Airways, Blue Gas, the Land Transport Authority (LTA), Sangam, the Fiji Roads Authority, Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC), Birth Fiji, Castaway Island Fiji, Blue Gas, Fiji Revenue & Customs Services, Fiji Roads Authority, and Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Services, have extended internship or job opportunities to students of the University. These initiatives underscore the commitment of both the University and industry partners to prepare students for professional success.

The University placed a high priority on giving students the tools they need to advance their careers and find work, and it offers services and programmes to support industry events, workshops, career placements, and alumni connections. All University of Fiji students are encouraged to be part of various University clubs. The Art and Craft Club has produced art for sale at the Enlightenment Bookshop, Treasures and Art Gallery at Saweni, and the newly opened Art Gallery at Samabula Campus. The Thespian Club presented a musical drama “Once on This Island” on 27th December 2024, which was well received.

RESEARCH

The University of Fiji made considerable progress during 2024 in key research areas of environment, agriculture, aquaculture, and human behaviour, work, and society. These themes intersect, offering strong opportunities for multidisciplinary research that can solve significant global challenges across our schools, centres, and country.

The Research strategic focus area includes activities designed to improve the quantity, quality and impact of our research outputs, attracting scholarly researchers, and improving the experience of postgraduate student cohorts.

ACADEMIC PROJECTS

- Development of Entrepreneurial Skills Post COVID-19 through Rural Aquaculture USAID-funded Project 350,000 USD (742,000 FJD) Timeline: August 2021 – May 2025 (No-cost Extension)

2024 Highlights: By December 2024, the project had achieved a milestone with the first successful harvest of White shrimp at the Vitawa village site in Rakiraki. The project was granted a No-cost extension (NCE) from August 12, 2024, to May 12, 2025, to accommodate a diversification cycle from tilapia to prawn, mullet, and rabbitfish farming. Over the past year, the team conducted refresher training on pond preparation, repair & maintenance, harvest protocols on handling & hygiene, and financial literacy for beneficiaries, including the Women in Fisheries Network, ensuring sustainable aquaculture practices and enhanced entrepreneurial skills.

- National implementation of global goals: Coherence between Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Funded by Stockholm Environment Institute and Linköping University, Sweden. FJD 90,000 Commenced in 2021 and to be concluded in 2024.

2024 Highlights: The Department of Science collaborated with Linköping University (LiU), The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), The University of Canberra (UC) and SEI's office in Colombia on a project titled "National implementation of global goals: Coherence between Nationally Determined Contributions and the Sustainable Development Goals" which was implemented in four countries, including Fiji, Sweden, Australia, and Columbia. The project responds to calls from the scientific community to focus on national implementation plans and understand domestic factors influencing climate ambition. It also responds to calls from policy practitioners in the case study countries and international organisations for best practices and tools for best practices and tools for enhancing policy coherence. The project team successfully completed data collection and analysis this year and is now focusing on publishing outcomes. The project, with a total budget of approximately FJD 600K, is funded by FORMAS (Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development) and has an allocation of approximately 150K for the The University of Fiji.

Main highlight: Publication of a policy brief entitled: Policy (In) Coherence between Climate Change, Sustainability, and Inequality: Fiji's Tourism and Agriculture Sectors. Department of Science staff and the Principal Investigator of the project, Ms. Priyatma Singh, also attended COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, to disseminate the findings of the project through a side event.

- Transforming Energy Access – Learning Partnership (TEA-LP) Funded by UK Aid and overseen by the Carbon Trust £16700.00

2024 Highlights: The new course REM408 Energy Access Solutions and Minigrid Design was developed, and the revised MScREM programme structure was approved by the UniFiji Senate and registered with the HECF. Dr. Ramendra Prasad, Head of the Science Department, attended the Sustainable Energy Education Conference in Valencia, Spain, with financial support from the TEA-LP. Dr. Ramendra Prasad and Mr. Amit Prakash (SOBE) attended the Mini Grid Training Workshop in Kigali, Rwanda, funded by the TEA-LP project. The first cohort of REM408 students completed this course this year. Another cohort is expected to be enrolled in 2025.

- Food Security in Vulnerable Islands: A Comparative Study between Kiribati and Fiji Islands. Funded by Action on Poverty \$29,587.07 FJD

The project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). This funding enabled an investigation of food security challenges in Fiji and Kiribati. We are also grateful to Action on Poverty for their commitment to global poverty reduction and the Government of Kiribati and Fiji Ministry of iTaukei Affairs for their support of the project, which was completed this year. The project team at the Department of Science has published a report, which will be available by January 2025. The team is also currently in the process of disseminating their findings through community outreach programs.

Main highlight: Completion of the report titled: Food Security in Pacific Islands: A Comparison between Fiji and Kiribati and sharing of the outcomes with various communities from the western region during a workshop organised by the Department of Science at Tanoa International Hotel, Lautoka, Fiji

- SOST-UniFiji and University of Palermo, Italy secured funding under the ERASMUS+ programme for student and staff exchange for Bachelor of Agricultural Engineering and Bachelor of Environmental Science Students. This funding will allow students from UniFiji to study at University of Palermo for a semester. The funding will be provided under the ERASMUS+ programme. The student exchange is expected to commence in 2025.
- University of South Australia Study Tour as part of New Colombo Plan, 10th -11th April. The UniFiji School of Science and Technology (SoST) hosted a dynamic two-day program fostering academic exchange and cultural immersion with The University of South Australia (UniSA). Day 1 featured a warm welcome by Dr. Permal Deo, interactive campus tours, and engaging seminars, including keynote addresses and presentations on traditional knowledge, climate change, and medicinal plant research by SoST faculty and students. Discussions highlighted the integration of traditional and Western sciences and showcased collaborative projects in Kiribati. On Day 2, a field trip to Malomalo village included a tree-planting initiative with UniSA students, the iTaukei community, and the Forestry Department, alongside a traditional Sevusevu ceremony. A visit to the Sigatoka Research Station followed, offering insights into agricultural techniques like grafting dragon fruit under a collaboration with Taiwan's government. The programme concluded with participants expressing gratitude for the enriching academic and cultural experiences.

PUBLICATIONS IN 2024

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- The University's goal for research is to collaborate with our partners on impactful research by building world-class research institutes, supporting and delivering excellence in research, establishing enduring partnerships, and developing the next generation of leading scholars and researchers.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Engagement, Environmental and Social Responsibilities draw attention to our commitment to social and environmental responsibilities in teaching, research, operations, and community outreach plans.

The University organised a clean-up campaign at Lomolomo Beach. The initiative was successfully launched by Mr. Ravindra Varman, Chair of the Finance Committee, who emphasised the importance of environmental sustainability and its alignment with the University's Strategic Plan 2022-2026. The event not only addressed critical environmental issues but also enhanced the University's presence in the community and fostered unity among staff, students, and stakeholders.

In 2024, the JDP School of Law made significant strides in its academic and regional engagements. The Dean, Prof. Shaista Shameem, facilitated joint ventures with the Royal Society of Arts (Oceania Board) and the British High Commissioner, including hosting a Royal Society Junior Fellow fundraiser in April. The Dean represented the University at prominent events, including the Regional Conference on Gender-Responsive Climate Policy in Fiji, and as legal experts advising the Commission of Small Island States on climate change matters.

Notably, the Dean, as a legal expert, participated in the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and attended consultations with international bodies like the International Criminal Court.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Shaista Shameem has engaged JDP School of Law (JDPSoL) and the School of Science and Technology (SoST) in collaborative efforts to establish the Ecological and Climate Crisis Legal Institute. This new institute will focus on addressing critical environmental challenges.

The Master of Laws (LLM) students are actively involved in the institute's research initiatives, contributing to submissions to international and regional courts on issues related to environmental damage.

Law students excelled in competitions, winning debates and performing well in the 2024 Inter-Tertiary Moot Competition.

The University staff participated in key regional events, including the Higher Education Careers Exposition and the Ba Multi-Ethnic Youth Festival.



Collaborative efforts with schools where interdisciplinary lectures such as medical law was delivered to medical and law students. In line with its educational commitments, the University hosted several seminars and conferences and organised outreach activities such as School visits and the Open Day.

The University's ongoing collaborations with various regional and international organisations are shaping the next generation of professionals committed to ethical leadership and sustainable development.

The staff from School of Business and Economics successfully executed a community outreach initiative; staff members visited the Old Age and Children's Home to donate essential grocery items and fresh produce. This activity reaffirms The University of Fiji's dedication to social responsibility and active engagement with community members. The event served to underscore the importance of empathy, compassion, and social responsibility—fundamental values that are integral to the University's curriculum. Additionally, it emphasised the necessity of supporting vulnerable populations within our community.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEMS

The first-year law programme from 2024 was exclusively conducted at Samabula Campus. The Centre for iTaukei Studies is grateful for the outstanding achievement in securing the \$1,000,000 capital grant, which is to fund the construction of a CIS building for lectures, offices, and a meeting centre. This milestone is particularly significant, as it marks the first time the University has received a capital grant from the Government. It reflects the hard work, dedication, and collaborative efforts of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, the Finance Office, and the Centre for iTaukei Studies.

The University has been diligently fostering partnerships and collaborations, which has enhanced its recognition among stakeholders.

GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL STABILITY

On this dimension, the University's goal is to have robust governance appointments, structures, and awareness mechanisms, as well as the appointment of highly qualified operational staff who pay rigorous attention to financial regulatory policies, compliance, and audit frameworks.

Every year, annual reports are released and distributed. Gender equity and diversity of people at the University are fostered and supported. The University has ventured into an inter-disciplinary approach to learning by developing and sharing its educational courses in collaboration within and outside the University through industry involvement. This is especially exemplified by the Journalism and Media Studies Programme which is industry developed and taught in combination with the University Academics

RISK MANAGEMENT

The University faced numerous risks that could have negatively impact our staff, students, and operations, as well as significantly affected the University's capacity to meet its strategic goals. Nonetheless, the risks were addressed in the University's best interest under the direction of the Vice-Chancellor and her staff.

The Compliance Officer is responsible for developing and maintaining Risk Management Matrix in dealing with the day-to-day affairs of the University Compliance promotes ethical conduct, protects against legal liabilities, and enhances organisational reputation. It fosters a culture of integrity, transparency, and accountability, attracting investors, customers, and employees, while also reducing operational risks and enhancing competitiveness.

ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

The University has a Quality Assurance Office, with a Director and staff, who are responsible for tracking the progress of the Strategic Plan 2022-2026 and to ensure compliance with Sub-strategic Plans of each Section, School and Department.

International QAA accreditation and Higher Education Commission of Fiji registration attest to the university's capacity for accountability, openness, and cooperation in all of its endeavours.

The University has conducted internal and external reviews of the Departments, Schools and Center designed to enhance the mission of the University by providing opportunities for sections to assess, share, and improve their impact, services, and quality of work.

STRATEGIC FORECAST FOR 2025

In 2025, the University aims to build on our work to progress implementation of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan with a strong focus on progressing initiatives to enhance our learning and teaching and research performance.

MASTER PLAN AND PHYSICAL FACILITIES

In 2024 the University disbursed approximately \$1.7M to purchase and upgrade IT Services, furniture, fittings, and books. Since 2005, the University has spent \$8.5M in repairs to the facilities and equipment.

Annual operating costs in 2024—inclusive of salaries and wages, travel and per diem, electricity, telephone, water and sewerage, HECF, land lease, rent, insurance, advertising and marketing, printing, stationery, postage and photocopying, leaning and sanitary, graduation, security, and general expenses while revenue includes tuition fees, government grant and commercial entities revenue. The University also set up an Office in Levuka to assist the community.

The Government allocated in the National budget a \$1M capital grant to construct the Centre for iTaukei Studies Bure.

CONCLUSION

The University has steadily improved its overall performance and quality over the years. It has achieved international quality assurance accreditation through a rigorous process of measurement by an international agency (QAA UK) which measured quality against 10 European Standards and Guidelines, with a mid-cycle review (due in 2025) built into the process.

The University has gained recognition for its emphasis on human values in higher education. Its innovations in learning and teaching for the public good are considered to be beacons for others in the Pacific.

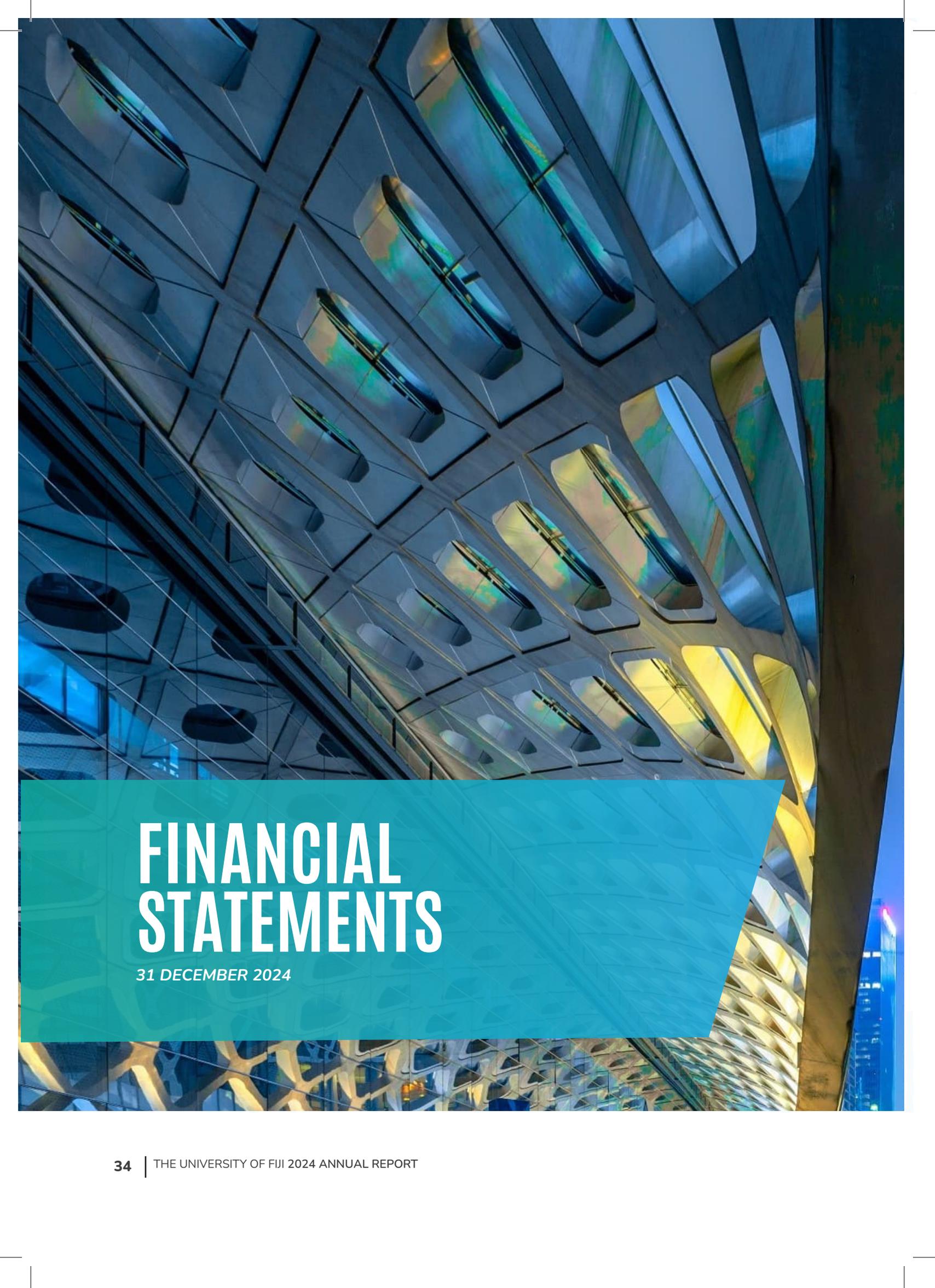
The University has also increased the number of academic staff with PhDs or on PhD track and has reported on a significant number of publications by staff in highly ranked academic journals. The University's strategy to boost research growth is reflected in the plan to recruit a Director of Research in 2025.

The University's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 places student performance and life at the top of its priority list, and it plans to offer accommodation facilities for both staff and students in the future.

The annual sub-strategic plans that are released by schools, centres, and sections at the start of the year and reported on at the end of the year for approval by the Senate and Council are used to measure accomplishments. Student evaluations are conducted throughout the semester to evaluate the performance and the quality of education provided.

The mission of The University of Fiji is to create a knowledge-based society by providing top-notch instruction using the human values approach, which includes fostering the development of both the hard and soft skills that businesses and employers demand at the same time.





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 DECEMBER 2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI
GENERAL INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Administration

Vice-Chancellor

Professor Shaista Shameem

Executive Director of Finance Planning & Development

Dr. Ravineet Sami

Bankers

Home Finance Company Limited, Suva, Fiji

Westpac Banking Corporation, Suva, Fiji

Solicitors

Vijay Maharaj Lawyers

Krishna & Company

Auditor

Ernst & Young

Nadi

Fiji

Registered office

The University of Fiji

Private Mail Bag

Saweni

Lautoka

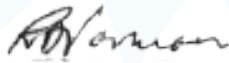
THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI
STATEMENT BY APPOINTED OFFICERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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 2024 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.



Professor Shaista Shameem
Vice Chancellor



Mr. Ravindra Deo Varman
Chair- Finance Committee



Dr. Ravineet Sami
Executive Director Finance
Planning & Development

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI
COUNCIL'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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 2024, the statement of activities 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. Bhuwan Dutt - Pro Chancellor & Chair of Council
- Pt. Kamlesh Arya - Pro Chancellor & Chair of Council (resigned on 2 March 2024)
- Professor Shaista Shameem
- Mr. Arun Padarath
- Mr. Balwant Singh
- Mr. Ravindra Varman
- Mr. Chandra Sen
- Mrs. Lila Shankar
- Mr. Ravneel Singh
- Mr. Bayant Singh
- Mr. Manhar Narsey
- Mr. Dhirendra Nand
- Ratu Meli Tora
- Mr. Netani Druavesi
- Ms. Selina Kuruleca
- Mr. Naipolione Locoloco
- Ms. Ragni Roy
- Professor Aziz Mohammed
- Mr. Rodney Vakaloloma
- Mr. Shivneil Raj
- Dr. Diva Singh

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 were to provide tertiary education for foundation, undergraduate, postgraduate and general education under the trading name of the University of Fiji.

Results

The surplus for the year was \$339,680 (2023: deficit of \$818,625). 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, 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.

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.

Going concern

The University of Fiji's current liabilities exceeded the current assets by \$1,119,539 as at 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes the continuation of normal business operations and the realization of assets and settlement of liabilities in the usual course of business.

The Council Members believe that this basis is appropriate given the implementation of stringent debtor collection policies, an increase in student enrolment, availability of unutilised approved overdraft facility and commitment from Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji to provide adequate support to the University if required, allowing it to meet its debt as they become due and to maintain its operations for next 12 months.

The financial statements do not include any adjustments relating to the carrying amounts and classification of assets, liabilities and reported expenses that may otherwise be required if the going concern basis was not appropriate.

Unusual transactions

Apart from 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.

Events subsequent to balance date

No matters or circumstances have arisen 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.

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; and
- (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 2024

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.

Council members' benefits

No Council member 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.

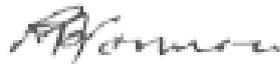
Auditor independence

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 of The University of Fiji on page 7.

Signed on behalf of the Council and in accordance with a resolution of the Council members this 05 March 2025.



Pt. Bhuwan Dutt
Pro - Chancellor & Chair of Council



Mr. Ravindra Deo Varman
Chair - Finance Committee



21 Enamanu Road,
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 2024, 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
Partner
Nadi, Fiji
05 March 2025



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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 2024, the statement of activities 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 2024, 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 Company in accordance with the *International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (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
Ernst & Young
Chartered Accountants


Shaneel Nandan
Partner
Nadi, Fiji
05 March 2025

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

| | Notes | 2024 \$ | 2023 \$ |
|--|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Income | | | |
| Tuition fees | 14 | 16,415,058 | 12,570,352 |
| Amortisation of deferred income | | 213 | 213 |
| Donations | | 19,361 | 4,500 |
| Gain on sales | | 448 | 250 |
| (Deficit) from bookshop | 13 | (39,803) | (41,036) |
| (Deficit)/surplus from Bemacino | | (2,062) | 3,917 |
| Government grant | 14 | 3,641,432 | 2,962,078 |
| Other income | | 322,138 | 421,422 |
| | | <u>20,356,785</u> | <u>15,921,696</u> |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Advertising and marketing | | 38,086 | 118,070 |
| Accounting fees | | 17,117 | 1,490 |
| Auditor's remuneration - audit fees | | 22,000 | 20,000 |
| - other fees | | 2,250 | 2,000 |
| Bad debts | 3.1 | 980,701 | 2,441,762 |
| Bank charges | | 36,435 | 32,068 |
| Cleaning and sanitation | | 89,558 | 134,729 |
| Council and other meeting cost | | 22,950 | 15,000 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | | 792,342 | 786,388 |
| Doubtful debts | | 1,159,302 | (1,550,093) |
| Electricity | | 414,081 | 336,834 |
| Fiji National Provident Fund - employer contributions* | | 678,375 | 443,328 |
| Fiji National University levy | | 18,132 | 16,292 |
| Functions | | 43,305 | 16,015 |
| Motor vehicle expense | | 70,893 | 42,340 |
| General expenses | 20 | 1,277,203 | 800,898 |
| Graduation | | 83,935 | 82,129 |
| Insurance | | 135,221 | 104,743 |
| Interest | 16 | 246,295 | 321,492 |
| Legal fees | | 27,176 | 44,914 |
| Learning, teaching and research | | 28,954 | 61,596 |
| Photocopier rental | | 156,757 | 88,550 |
| Rent and rates | 18 | 993,948 | 900,616 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 17 | 298,220 | 572,213 |
| Salaries and wages | 15 | 10,083,362 | 8,625,594 |
| Security | | 1,124,266 | 1,024,129 |
| Stationery, printing and postage | | 149,957 | 124,978 |
| Telephone, fax and internet | | 467,043 | 424,494 |
| Traveling and accommodation | 19 | 559,241 | 707,752 |
| Total expenditure | | <u>20,017,105</u> | <u>16,740,321</u> |
| Net surplus/ (deficit) for the year | | 339,680 | (818,625) |
| Accumulated funds at 1 January | | 15,304,705 | 16,123,330 |
| Total accumulated funds at 31 December | | <u>15,644,385</u> | <u>15,304,705</u> |

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

| | Notes | 2024 \$ | 2023 \$ |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Current assets | | | |
| Trade and other receivables | 4 | 3,674,385 | 3,953,950 |
| Inventories | 5 | 272,469 | 275,084 |
| Prepayments and other assets | 6 | 333,027 | 319,255 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 12(ii) | 830,429 | 548,697 |
| | | <u>5,110,310</u> | <u>5,096,986</u> |
| Non-current assets | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 7 | 22,082,584 | 22,129,956 |
| | | <u>22,082,584</u> | <u>22,129,956</u> |
| Total assets | | <u>27,192,894</u> | <u>27,226,942</u> |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Deferred income | 2.2(j) | 14,663 | 14,876 |
| Trade and other payables | 8 | 1,376,168 | 943,411 |
| Employee benefits | 9 | 444,551 | 329,192 |
| Interest-bearing borrowings | 10 | 4,394,467 | 3,801,377 |
| | | <u>6,229,849</u> | <u>5,088,856</u> |
| Non-current liabilities | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 8 | 421,678 | 421,678 |
| Interest-bearing borrowings | 10 | 4,896,982 | 6,411,703 |
| | | <u>5,318,660</u> | <u>6,833,381</u> |
| Total liabilities | | <u>11,548,509</u> | <u>11,922,237</u> |
| Net assets | | <u>15,644,385</u> | <u>15,304,705</u> |
| Accumulated funds | | | |
| Accumulated funds | 11 | 15,644,385 | 15,304,705 |
| Surplus in owners' equity | | <u>15,644,385</u> | <u>15,304,705</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 2024

| | Notes | 2024 \$ | 2023 \$ |
|---|--------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Operating activities | | | |
| Student fees | | 15,521,549 | 14,671,211 |
| Government grants and donation | | 3,983,144 | 3,388,213 |
| Other expense | | (41,630) | (37,081) |
| Payments to suppliers and employees | | (17,245,202) | (17,444,586) |
| Interest and other costs of finance paid | | (246,295) | (321,492) |
| Net cash flows provided by operating activities | 12(i) | <u>1,971,566</u> | <u>256,265</u> |
| Investing activities | | | |
| Acquisition of property, plant and equipment | | (782,304) | (420,332) |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment | | 14,101 | - |
| Net cash flows used in investing activities | | <u>(768,203)</u> | <u>(420,332)</u> |
| Financing activities | | | |
| Repayment of related party loans | | (180,000) | (180,000) |
| Repayment of interest-bearing borrowings | | (1,097,828) | (1,089,499) |
| Net cash flows used in financing activities | | <u>(1,277,828)</u> | <u>(1,269,499)</u> |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents | | (74,465) | (1,433,566) |
| Bank overdraft at 1 January | | (1,997,580) | (564,014) |
| Bank overdraft as at 31 December | 12(ii) | <u>(2,072,045)</u> | <u>(1,997,580)</u> |

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Statement of Cash Flows.

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Corporate information

The University of Fiji (the University) is incorporated and domiciled in Fiji. The financial statements of The University of Fiji for the year ended 31 December 2024 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Council members on 05 March 2025.

2.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the University have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard 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 monetary values 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.

Going concern

The University of Fiji's current liabilities exceeded the current assets by \$1,119,539 as at 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes the continuation of normal business operations and the realization of assets and settlement of liabilities in the usual course of business.

The Council Members believe that this basis is appropriate given the implementation of stringent debtor collection policies, an increase in student enrolment, availability of unutilised approved overdraft facility and commitment from Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji to provide adequate support to the University if required, allowing it to meet its debt as they become due and to maintain its operations for next 12 months.

The financial statements do not include any adjustments relating to the carrying amounts and classification of assets, liabilities and reported expenses that may otherwise be required if the going concern basis was not appropriate.

2.2 Summary of accounting policies

a) Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are recognised 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 three months 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

Property, 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.

2.2 Summary of accounting policies (continued)

c) Property, plant and equipment continued

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

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| • Leasehold land | Amortised over the lease |
| • Buildings | 1.25% |
| • Apparatus, equipment and motor vehicles | 10%- 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.

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 University. 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 is 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 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 University 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.

2.2 Summary of accounting policies (continued)

g) Revenue recognition information (continued)

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.

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 activities.

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 the 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.

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| 3. Revenue and expenses | | |
| 3.1 Operating expenses | \$ | \$ |
| Auditor's remuneration - audit fees | 22,000 | 20,000 |
| - other | 2,250 | 2,000 |
| Bad debts | 980,701 | 2,441,762 |
| Doubtful debts | 1,159,302 | (1,550,093) |
| Other operating costs | 7,523,195 | 6,879,566 |
| Total operating expenses | <u>9,687,448</u> | <u>7,793,235</u> |
| 3.2 Finance costs | \$ | \$ |
| Interest on debt and borrowings | <u>246,295</u> | <u>321,492</u> |
| 4. Trade and other receivables | \$ | \$ |
| Fees in arrears | 5,158,602 | 4,278,865 |
| Less: provision for doubtful debts | <u>(1,484,217)</u> | <u>(324,915)</u> |
| | <u>3,674,385</u> | <u>3,953,950</u> |
| Student loan receivables | 425,656 | 425,656 |
| Less: provision for doubtful debts | <u>(425,656)</u> | <u>(425,656)</u> |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>3,674,385</u> | <u>3,953,950</u> |
| Disclosed as: | | |
| Current | <u>3,674,385</u> | <u>3,953,950</u> |
| As at 31 December 2024, the University has trade receivables of \$3,674,385 (2023: \$3,953,950) which is net of provision for doubtful debts, the University had also fully written off bad debts of \$980,701. | | |
| Student loan receivables shall be recovered by the University as follows: | | |
| (i) within the completion of the programme as graduation of the student will be withheld; and | | |
| (ii) 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. | | |
| 5. Inventories | \$ | \$ |
| Canteen | 5,030 | 2,970 |
| Bookshop | 73,560 | 67,122 |
| Gowns | 193,879 | 204,992 |
| Total inventories at the lower of cost and net realisable value | <u>272,469</u> | <u>275,084</u> |
| As at 31 December 2024, \$Nil (2023: \$Nil) was recognised as an expense for inventories written down. | | |
| 6. Prepayments and other assets | \$ | \$ |
| Deposits | 118,420 | 147,755 |
| Prepayments | 214,607 | 171,500 |
| | <u>333,027</u> | <u>319,255</u> |

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

7. Property, plant and equipment

| Cost | Leasehold land | Work in Progress | Buildings | Apparatus, equipment and motor vehicles | Furniture and fittings | Books | Total |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------|---|------------------------|-----------|------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| At 1 January 2023 | 1,588,574 | 2,276,497 | 18,808,413 | 7,494,735 | 1,525,674 | 1,739,695 | 33,433,588 |
| Additions | - | 173,494 | - | 217,779 | 19,632 | 9,427 | 420,332 |
| Transfers | - | (2,436,187) | 2,430,286 | - | 5,901 | - | - |
| At 31 December 2023 | 1,588,574 | 13,804 | 21,238,699 | 7,712,514 | 1,551,207 | 1,749,122 | 33,853,920 |
| Additions | - | 175,680 | - | 592,048 | - | 14,576 | 782,304 |
| Disposals | - | - | - | (56,000) | - | - | (56,000) |
| At 31 December 2024 | 1,588,574 | 189,484 | 21,238,699 | 8,248,562 | 1,551,207 | 1,763,698 | 34,580,224 |
| Depreciation and impairment | | | | | | | |
| At 1 January 2023 | 46,098 | - | 1,819,384 | 6,299,914 | 1,105,213 | 1,666,967 | 10,937,576 |
| Depreciation charge | 3,099 | - | 248,144 | 404,908 | 90,752 | 39,485 | 786,388 |
| At 31 December 2023 | 49,197 | - | 2,067,528 | 6,704,822 | 1,195,965 | 1,706,452 | 11,723,964 |
| Depreciation charge | 3,099 | - | 265,864 | 416,137 | 87,439 | 19,803 | 792,342 |
| Disposals | - | - | - | (18,666) | - | - | (18,666) |
| At 31 December 2024 | 52,296 | - | 2,333,392 | 7,102,293 | 1,283,404 | 1,726,255 | 12,497,640 |
| Net book value: | | | | | | | |
| At 31 December 2024 | 1,536,278 | 189,484 | 18,905,307 | 1,146,269 | 267,803 | 37,443 | 22,082,584 |
| At 31 December 2023 | 1,539,377 | 13,804 | 19,171,171 | 1,007,692 | 355,242 | 42,670 | 22,129,956 |

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 8. Trade and other payables | \$ | \$ |
| Creditors and accruals (current) | 693,899 | 662,934 |
| Unearned revenue - Government Grant | 682,269 | 280,477 |
| Student loans payable (non-current) | <u>421,678</u> | <u>421,678</u> |
| | <u>1,797,846</u> | <u>1,365,089</u> |
| Disclosed as: | \$ | \$ |
| Current | 1,376,168 | 943,411 |
| Non-current | <u>421,678</u> | <u>421,678</u> |
| | <u>1,797,846</u> | <u>1,365,089</u> |
| 9. Employee leave liability | \$ | \$ |
| Balance at 1 January | 329,192 | 365,364 |
| Arising during the year | 442,962 | 442,962 |
| Paid during the year | <u>(327,603)</u> | <u>(479,134)</u> |
| Balance at 31 December | <u>444,551</u> | <u>329,192</u> |

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

| | | | \$ | \$ |
|--|-------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10. Interest-bearing borrowings | | | | |
| | | Effective interest rate | | |
| | | Maturity | | |
| <u>Current</u> | | | | |
| Bank overdraft (Note 12) | 3.50% | On demand | 2,902,474 | 2,546,277 |
| Westpac Banking Corporation | 3.50% | 2026 | 59,245 | 56,083 |
| Westpac Banking Corporation | 3.50% | 2024 | - | 68,221 |
| Westpac Banking Corporation | 3.50% | 2026 | 613,643 | 611,641 |
| Westpac Banking Corporation | 3.50% | 2033 | 529,868 | 237,924 |
| Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji | 0.0% | 2043 | 180,000 | 180,000 |
| Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji Savings Cooperatives Limited | 5.0% | 2029 | 88,404 | 101,231 |
| Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji Savings Cooperatives Limited | 5.0% | 2025 | <u>20,833</u> | - |
| | | | <u>4,394,467</u> | <u>3,801,377</u> |
| <u>Non-current</u> | | | | |
| Westpac Banking Corporation | 3.50% | 2026 | 399,258 | 1,039,010 |
| Westpac Banking Corporation | 3.50% | 2026 | 39,037 | 103,418 |
| Westpac Banking Corporation | 3.50% | 2033 | 990,243 | 1,550,840 |
| Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji | 0.0% | 2043 | 3,204,881 | 3,384,881 |
| Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji Savings Cooperatives Limited | 5.0% | 2029 | <u>263,563</u> | <u>333,554</u> |
| | | | <u>4,896,982</u> | <u>6,411,703</u> |

(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 All Monies Mortgage No. 446242 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 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 nil%(2023: nil) 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 THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| (i) Reconciliation of surplus/ (deficit) to net cash inflows from Operating | \$ | \$ |
| Operating surplus/ (deficit) | 339,680 | (818,625) |
| Add non-cash items: | | |
| Amortisation of deferred income | (213) | (212) |
| Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment | 23,233 | - |
| Depreciation | 792,342 | 786,388 |
| Provision for doubtful debts | 1,159,302 | (1,550,093) |
| Net cash from/ (used in) operating activities before change in assets and liabilities | 2,314,344 | (1,582,542) |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| (Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables | (879,737) | 2,115,119 |
| Increase in prepayments and other assets | (13,772) | (14,260) |
| Decrease in inventories | 2,615 | 8,776 |
| Increase/ (decrease) in employee benefits | 115,359 | (36,172) |
| Increase/ (decrease) in trade and other payables | 432,757 | (234,656) |
| Net cash flows provided by operating activities | 1,971,566 | 256,265 |

(ii) Reconciliation of cash:

\$ \$

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash comprises of cash on hand and 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 | 2,780 | 3,037 |
| Operating account | 814,249 | 534,360 |
| Cash on hand | 13,400 | 11,300 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 830,429 | 548,697 |
| Bank overdraft (Note 10) | (2,902,474) | (2,546,277) |
| | (2,072,045) | (1,997,580) |

13. Bookshop trading account

| | \$ | \$ |
|--|----------|----------|
| Bookshop sales | 105,215 | 169,050 |
| Less: cost of sales | | |
| Opening stock | 67,122 | 64,701 |
| Purchases | 127,363 | 191,872 |
| Wages | 24,093 | 20,635 |
| | 218,578 | 277,208 |
| Less: closing stock | (73,560) | (67,122) |
| | 145,018 | 210,086 |
| Deficit transferred to statement of comprehensive income | (39,803) | (41,036) |

14. Fees

| | \$ | \$ |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Tuition fees | 16,415,058 | 12,570,352 |
| Government grant | 3,641,432 | 2,962,078 |
| | 20,056,490 | 15,532,430 |

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 15. Salaries and wages | \$ | \$ |
| Senior management | 2,804,725 | 2,055,818 |
| Administration and support staff | 1,708,871 | 1,837,540 |
| Per diems | 191,331 | 141,573 |
| Academic staff | 5,378,435 | 4,590,663 |
| | <u>10,083,362</u> | <u>8,625,594</u> |
| 16. Interest | \$ | \$ |
| Interest on bank loans | 221,146 | 294,706 |
| Interest on internal loans | 25,149 | 26,786 |
| | <u>246,295</u> | <u>321,492</u> |
| 17. Repairs and maintenance | \$ | \$ |
| Building maintenance | 232,950 | 477,810 |
| Compound maintenance | 9,411 | 25,194 |
| Equipment maintenance | 55,859 | 69,209 |
| | <u>298,220</u> | <u>572,213</u> |
| 18. Rent and rates | \$ | \$ |
| Land rental | 34,346 | 33,211 |
| Clinical accommodation/ Centres | 935,342 | 846,664 |
| Water rates | 24,260 | 20,741 |
| | <u>993,948</u> | <u>900,616</u> |
| 19. Travelling and accommodation | \$ | \$ |
| Local traveling and accommodation | 544,703 | 697,405 |
| Overseas travelling and accommodation | 14,538 | 10,347 |
| | <u>559,241</u> | <u>707,752</u> |
| 20. General expense | \$ | \$ |
| Subscription | 910,580 | 642,819 |
| Consultancy | 78,189 | 3,000 |
| Consumables - lab/ classroom | 199,279 | 113,389 |
| Hire charges | 27,702 | 20,158 |
| Loss on disposal of assets | 23,233 | 813 |
| Staff development | 31,959 | 20,719 |
| Valuation expenses | 6,261 | - |
| | <u>1,277,203</u> | <u>800,898</u> |

21. Related party disclosures

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

- Pt. Bhuwan Dutt - Pro Chancellor & Chair of Council
- Pt. Kamlesh Arya - Pro Chancellor & Chair of Council (resigned on 2 March 2024)
- Professor Shaista Shameem
- Mr. Arun Padarath
- Mr. Balwant Singh
- Mr. Ravindra Varman
- Mr. Chandra Sen
- Mrs. Lila Shankar
- Mr. Ravneel Singh
- Mr. Bayant Singh

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

21. Related party disclosures (continued)

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

- Mr. Manhar Narsey
- Mr. Dharendra Nand
- Ratu Meli Tora
- Mr. Netani Druavesi
- Ms. Selina Kuruleca
- Mr. Naipolione Locoloco
- Ms. Ragni Roy
- Professor Aziz Mohammed
- Mr. Rodney Vakaloloma
- Mr. Shivneil Raj
- Dr. Diva Singh

Related party balances

Included in payables at year end is the following related party balances:

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| (a) <u>Non-current</u> | \$ | \$ |
| Internal loan from the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji | <u>3,204,881</u> | <u>3,384,881</u> |

During the year, The University of Fiji traded with its related entity, the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji. 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>25,149</u> | <u>26,786</u> |
| <u>Key management compensation</u> | | |
| Salaries and wages | <u>1,445,551</u> | <u>1,574,099</u> |

22. Principal business activities

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

23. Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities at balance date are as follows:

| | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| (i) Indemnity guarantee provided for immigration bond | <u>216,126</u> | <u>216,126</u> |
|---|----------------|----------------|

24. Expenditure commitments

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| (a) Capital expenditure commitments | <u>1,000,000</u> | <u>860,641</u> |
| (b) Operating lease commitments | \$ | \$ |
| Not later than one year | 261,400 | 877,144 |
| Later than one year but not later than two years | <u>176,000</u> | <u>886,548</u> |
| | <u>437,400</u> | <u>1,763,692</u> |

(c) Finance leases - \$Nil (2023: \$Nil)

25. Events subsequent to balance date

No matters or circumstances have arisen 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.

26. (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.

(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.

27. University details

University incorporation

The University was incorporated in Fiji under the University Act 2011.

Registered office

University of Fiji

Saweni

Lautoka

Principal place of business

Saweni



The University of Fiji
(An Entity of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji)

CONTACT US

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Fiji Islands
<https://www.unifiji.ac.fj>
info@unifiji.ac.fj

Saweni Campus

Queens Highway
(679) 664 0600
(679) 999 9100/ 5276

Ba campus

Varadoli, Ba
(679) 667 0600

Levuka Office

(679) 664 0600

Samabula Campus

1 Kula Street, Samabula
(679) 337 3614
(679) 999 9111

Registered with the Fiji Higher Education Commission as a University under the Higher Education Act 2008. Registration Certificate Number (RGN0020/11)