

29-July-2021

Press Release

OUTCOMES OF THE 23rd USPSA FEDERAL COUNCIL MEETING

The 23rd Session of the University of the South Pacific Students Association (USPSA) Council Meeting was virtually held on the 27th and 28th of July, 2021. The theme for this meeting was 'Resilient Leadership'.

The meeting was officiated by the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIFS) Mr. Henry Puna. We also had the opportunity to hear from Fijis Minister for Education, Heritage & Arts Hon. Rosy Akbar, the University Pro-Chancellor Mr. Thompson, the Acting Vice-Chancellor & President Dr. Paunga and the Vice-President of New Zealand Union of Students Association (NZUSA) Mr. Liam Davies.

Student leaders of USP Campuses from across the Pacific region participated in the 2-day meeting where they deliberated on various issues of concern to the students and the regionalism agenda in line with the Associations' mandate and the Transformative Plan.

The Student Council also had an open dialogue with the University's Senior Management Team (SMT) where updates on the response to COVID-19 and its impact on the Learning & Teaching were shared and discussed.

The Student leaders also made use of this open dialogue to raise several important issues affecting students at their campuses, directly with the SMT.

In addition to the Student Council's normal business, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) facilitated an interactive workshop on the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy. The Student Council is proud to continue its partnership with PIFS in line with its objectives, the Student Charter, the Transformative plan and our motto of *One Ocean One People One Voice One Journey*.

The following are some brief outcomes of the 23rd Student Council Meeting:

- General Services Fees (GSF) for Semester 2, 2021/Trimester 3, 2021 will be \$15.00 for all Campuses;
- USPSA Branches will proceed with its scheduled elections in all campuses between September-November 2021, virtual mode where applicable;
- Branches will continue to deliver welfare projects and programmes in partnership with University Management which includes food vouchers, tuition fees assistance, laptop scheme and other initiatives;

- The Council held a successful election of new Student Officers/Executives namely the Chair & President and the Deputy Chair & VP. We will announce the details of this to everyone in the coming days.
- In light of the challenges brought about by the Global Pandemic and in line with its meeting theme of *'Resilient Leadership'*, the Student Council agreed that it would continue to work closely with the University Management to address challenges faced by students across the USP Campuses in all areas through a cooperative and collaborative approach;
- The Council also recognised the importance of vaccination campaigns initiated in its member countries and agreed to fully support the work of all member governments, where possible in these campaigns;
- In accordance with the Associations objectives, the Student Charter and its Transformative Plan, the Student Council agreed to continue its support towards the achievement of the University's Strategic Plan (SP);
- The Student Council agreed, that through its Secretariat (Federal Office), it will continue to engage and collaborate with CROP Agencies in addition to various organizations in its member countries and across the globe to promote the regionalism agenda, contributing towards the fight on Climate Change, promoting good governance, accountability and transparency, supporting students across the region on path to COVID-19 recovery and the championing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a particular focus on quality education, gender equality, strong institutions and partnerships.

The USP Student Council acknowledges the leadership of the University Council, the Office of the Vice-Chancellor & President together with the SMT and all USP Campus Directors.

The Student Council appreciates the continued support, patience and trust from all its branches and members in the 12 member countries 14 campuses during these trying times and wishes to reiterate, that the Association will continue to champion your voices and advocate and support a culture of inclusiveness, equity and equality at all levels of the University and the wider community.

For any clarifications or queries related to this release, please email us on uspsa@usp.ac.fj.

USPSA Secretariat

July 2021

