

UniFiji Focuses on Online Teaching

UniFiji is focusing on implementing various creative techniques for online classes. The Dean of each School is guiding the lecturers on online modes of teaching and learning.

The School of Science and Technology (SoST) Dean, Professor Anirudh Singh, said that SoST was looking at two options to offer classes online- the first was uploading videos of lectures on moodle and/or using Google Meet to hold live classes.

Professor Singh said that the School would be employing both methods. Despite the teaching techniques being a little different, students need not to worry about the content of the classes, Professor Singh said. They would be taught using all best possible methods.

Laboratory classes have been postponed until the end of the semester. Professor Singh said that if the restrictions were to be uplifted, the laboratories would be back to as normal otherwise they would be conducted as demonstrations.

Professor Singh also said that for students who were genuinely unable to connect to the internet and attend online classes because they lived in remote areas the lectures would be printed and dropped off at Post Offices as a special measure.

The Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law is experimenting with new teaching methodologies and the Dean, Professor Shaista Shameem will receive a report from the lecturers by the end of the week. No hiccups have been reported so far but the lecturers were vigilantly contacting all their students and ensuring they attended the classes. Professor Shameem said she was monitoring attendance carefully herself to ensure everyone had access easily to the on-line modes of learning.

The Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences Dean, Professor Fred Merchant noted that online classes were progressing well at the School. He said that almost all the students were able to go online and make use of the Google method of studying.

He said that all clinical classes were postponed and the decision on when and how this would progress would depend on the Government's directive.

Professor Ranasinghe Amaradasa, Dean of the School of Business and Economics, said that the School was also progressing very well with the online mode of teaching.

He had observed that staff were motivated to teach online and were even able to reach students from as far as Vanuatu who had returned to their countries during the mid semester break and now could not return to Fiji. The School is using Google Meet as one of the tools for online teaching.

Professor Tupeni Baba, Dean of the School of Humanities and Arts, commended his academic staff for showing excellent commitment and compassion towards online classes. He said that SoHA staff were doing all they could to make the transition from face-to-face to online classes easier for students.

He added that SoHA staff had updated their computers and explored various literature to move content of lectures online. He explained that the teaching and learning was a two way process and lecturers had done their part, now the students had to play their part and learn from the new experience.

In light of COVID-19 pandemic and the hardships faced by all throughout the country, the Council has allowed students time until the end of this year for the payment of fees for Semester 1, 2020.

The University is also looking at various other means to communicate with its students. In extreme cases where students are not able to connect to the internet to attend their classes, UniFiji is reviewing numerous methods to make the teaching materials available to these students. The arrangements will be announced in due course.

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