

Learning and Teaching Plan 2017-2018

Responsibility: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching & Student Services)

Date approved: Senate 4/16 16 November 2016

Date last amended: -

Date for next review: November 2018

Purpose of Paper

The purpose of this paper is to present to Council the Senate-approved Learning and Teaching Plan 2017-2018-for approval and implementation.

Background

The Learning and Teaching Plan is integral to the operationalisation of Priority Area 1 Learning and Teaching of the Strategic Plan.

Learning and Teaching Plan 2017-2018

The Learning and Teaching Policy, approved by Senate, articulates USP's commitment to supporting the effective preparation of students for life, employment, and good citizenship. Our commitment is to ensure that USP graduates are ethical, responsible and productive contributors to the economic and social development of a secure, harmonious, sustainable and vibrant region from within the Pacific region or beyond its boundaries. USP graduates are expected to be proficient in oral and written English, competent in their chosen discipline area, skilled in IT and communication, adaptable to change, ready for leadership and able to perform well in diverse teams. The Learning and Teaching Policy aims to develop a learning culture. It also reflects an understanding of the University's Pacific context amidst myriad challenges that include smallness, isolation, environmental fragility, resource scarcity, the need for equity, access and support for small island states in an increasingly globalised world. The policy seeks to address these needs by utilising USP's strengths inherent in its regional mandate to provide a high quality university education to its peoples and Pacific communities.

This USP policy is guided by conventions of deliberate and planned learning that include both recognition of prior learning experiences and formal instruction. The policy refers to learning and teaching methods that allow students to progress through rigorous programmes in a range of academic fields to achieve relevant learning outcomes. This approach requires that the University be highly cognisant of, and committed to, the Pacific region's expectations about the skills and knowledge it needs and expects students to acquire, and to create a learning environment that empowers, enhances and encourages best practice in pedagogy and educational delivery. USP will work to help students integrate and apply their learning, build life skills and acquire appropriate graduate attributes for successful living, working, leading and managing change. USP will also address skill development among its teachers through professional development and training; expecting its staff to demonstrate best practice in pedagogy, learning and teaching. There is also an emphasis on applied research, field and community-based education outreach, all of which are central to our teaching philosophy.

This Learning and Teaching Plan sets out the implementation of the Learning and Teaching Policy and should be read in conjunction with the Strategic Plan 2013-2018. Resources associated with activities shall be incorporated in the Annual Plans for 2017 and 2018.

Objectives

By the end of 2018, we will know we are on track to achieving excellence if we have achieved the following objectives:

1. Transform USP's pedagogy and curriculum;
2. Ensure programmes continue to be relevant and responsive to the needs of the region;
3. Improve the quality of teaching throughout the USP system;
4. Foster excellence in the consistency and structure of academic programs;
5. Improve the equity of student services;
6. Create a student community with high levels of awareness of health and safety issues and respect for others;
7. Improve attendance, retention, pass and completion rates; and
8. Promote Pacific consciousness and cohesiveness.

Objective 1	Transform USP's pedagogy and curriculum		
Initiatives	Activities	Officer(s) responsible	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerate staff development for effective application of new pedagogies and technologies Incorporate graduate attributes into the curriculum Build more entrepreneurship training into the curriculum Undertake a large-scale conversion of USP courses for flexible delivery 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support for staff professional development in the use of new pedagogies, especially the use of digital technologies Complete programme mapping for all undergraduate and postgraduate courses Develop and implement measures of the quality of teaching that require staff to implement new pedagogies, especially the use of digital technologies Provide entrepreneurship activities in courses, internships and TAFE offerings Provide workshops on entrepreneurship Convert courses and programmes as per the KPIs in the Strategic Plan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DHR supported by DCFL DVC LTSS and Deans DVC LTSS Deans DVC LTSS supported by DCL DVC LTSS supported by DCFL 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2017 2017 2017 Complete Complete 2018

Objective 2	Ensure programmes continue to be relevant and responsive to the needs of the region		
Initiatives	Activities	Officer(s) Responsible	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen engagement with private and public sectors Obtain international accreditation for all programmes Expand programmes to improve English language proficiency Establish the Counseling and Placement Centre and expand job placements All students have increased 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Revise and re-launch effective Campus Advisory Committees and ensure they meet regularly and their feedback is incorporated into revision of courses and programmes Prepare and implement a comprehensive framework for programme accreditation or programme review Provide regular career counselling workshops 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> VP RC & PF Senior QA Coordinator and Deans DCL DCL Deans DVC LTSS DVC LTSS 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete 2017 Complete Complete Complete 2017 2017

options in accessing learning materials whether on campus or remotely.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Provide a comprehensive job website 5. Provide internships or placements for a wide range of programmes 6. Develop and implement a comprehensive programme of OER resources including e-textbooks 7. Develop and implement a comprehensive suite of online student support 		
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Objective 3	Improve the quality of teaching throughout the USP system		
Initiatives	Activities	Officer(s) Responsible	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the teaching staff complete or hold PGCTT or equivalent • Expand continuing professional development for teaching excellence • Improve the quality and impact of teaching 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convert PGCTT to online mode 2. Audit all academic staff to confirm they have PGCTT or equivalent 3. Prepare action plan to ensure all staff who have not gained PGCTT or equivalent do so by end of 2018 4. Develop and implement Quality of teaching measures 5. Ensure QoT measures incorporated into Staff Review and gaps are addressed by staff development 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dean FALE 2. DHR 3. DHR 4. DVC LTSS 5. DHR 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2017 2. 2017 3. 2017 4. 2017 5. 2017

Objective 4	Foster excellence in the consistency and structure of academic programs		
Initiatives	Activities	Officer(s) Responsible	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the STAR Project 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review the STAR Project to establish what needs to be completed; A cross case analysis of the review of STAR, the Diagnostic for WSCUC, and the AQA Audit has resulted in four cross-cutting themes (English Language Proficiency, Outcomes, Assessment & Learning Design, and Retention. Activities to drive these forward, have now been mainstreamed into University routine process. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DVC LTSS DVC LTSS 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Complete

Objective 5	Improve the equity of student services		
Initiatives	Activities	Officer(s) Responsible	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement Inclusion and Equity Plan Strengthen bursary and scholarship schemes for wider participation Develop financing schemes with Governments and Financial Institutions for tertiary students 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion and Equity Plan to be developed, implemented and monitored for compliance Review ToR and procedures for awarding of bursaries and scholarships Review and gain approval if necessary for ToR for Scholarship's Committee Prepare and gain approval for financing schemes supported by regional governments and development partners 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manager DRC DVC LTSS DVC LTSS DDMCA 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Complete 2016 2017

Objective 6	Create a student community with high levels of awareness of health and safety issues and respect for others		
Initiatives	Activities	Officer(s) Responsible	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully implement the health and wellness management plan • Improve security and safety on all campuses • Create inter-cultural dialogue and interaction to foster tolerance amongst students • Improved competitiveness of USP's science programme • Improved quality of science education • Improved quality of agricultural education 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete implementation and monitor management of health & wellness plan 2. Review campus security and take necessary action to improve security where needed 3. Prepare and implement a schedule regular intercultural activities including sporting events 4. Deliver in-country or cohort-based science programmes across the region, where financially viable 5. Conduct review of SAFT 6. Implement all recommendations of SAFT Review 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GMCL 2. VP RC & PF 3. GMCL 4. Dean FSTE 5. Senior QA Coordinator and Dean FBE 6. HOS SAFT 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete 2. Complete 3. Complete 4. Complete

Objective 7	Improve attendance, retention, pass and completion rates		
Initiatives	Activities	Officer(s) Responsible	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate a major programme to improve first year student experience • Initiate mentorship programmes to improve completion 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint FYE Coordinators across all Faculties 2. Prepare regular reports of FYE and implement any recommendations 3. Appoint student mentors across the University 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GMCL 2. FYE Faculty Coordinators 3. GMCL 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete 2. Complete 3. Complete

Objective 8	Promote Pacific consciousness and cohesiveness		
Initiatives	Activities	Officer(s) Responsible	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Campus Life activities to other campuses • Support the establishment of cross-cultural societies and activities • Substantially increase student accommodation on the large campuses 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where funds are provided, appoint campus life officers or allocate some duties to existing positions in regional campuses 2. Expand outreach of student counseling to other campuses 3. Ensure campus life activities are widely promoted and encourage cross-cultural interaction 4. Build new hostels, based on a commercially viable business case as approved 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GMCL 2. GMCL 3. GMCL 4. Director USP Commercial 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete 2. 2017 3. Complete 4. 2018