KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PROFESSOR JITO VANUALAILAI
The University of the South Pacific and the RSD
The University of the South Pacific and the RSD

Jito Vanualailai  
Director of Research  
USP  
jito.vanualailai@usp.ac.fj
THE USP REGION

Established in 1968
12 Countries
14 Campuses
Area = 33m sq.km
27,000 students
THE CHARTER OF THE UNIVERSITY

AT THE COURT AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE
THE 4TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 1970
PRESENT
THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY IN COUNCIL

WHEREAS there was this day read at the Board the Draft of a Charter for constituting a Body Corporate under the name and style of “The University of the South Pacific”.

CORE MEMBERS
- 12 Ministers of Education from 12 member countries;
- Rep of Australian Government;
- Rep of New Zealand Government;
- Staff and Student reps;
2018 – 50th Anniversary Laucala Campus in 1968

No. 5 Squadron RNZAF

Squadron insignia

Active: November 1941 – November 1942
July 1944 – present
2018 – 50th Anniversary Alumni: Prime Ministers/Presidents

‘Akilisi Pohiva
PM of Tonga
BEd, 1978

Taneti Mamau
President of Kiribati
BA, 1982

Bikenibeu Paeniu
PM of Tuvalu
B Agr. 1980

Ludwig Scotty
President of Nauru
Certificate in Law 1999

Jo Natuman
PM of Vanuatu
BA, 1978
Learning & Teaching
CHALLENGES
English is 2nd or 3rd Language: Writing & Communication Skills

https://eng250isucomm.wordpress.com/2013/01/18/do-these-words-look-familiar-they-should-guess-what-words-informed-this-wordle-art/
Science & Technology:
Teamwork; Critical Thinking Skills; Creativity

Pacific Consciousness
Knowing oneself
Societal CHALLENGES
Governance:
Professionalism, Ethics

Fiji coups
Tongan riots
Solomon Is ethnic conflict
Environment
Climate Change, Sea-level rise
Deaths from NCDs a silent tsunami: SPC

By Re Vausa - October 21, 2017

Death from Non-Communicable Diseases is a silent tsunami in Pacific Island Countries, says a Pacific Community spokeswoman.

Speaking at the Joint FAO and SPC Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Ministers Meeting in Port Vila this week, SPC’s Audrey Aumua said the importation of processed food is increasing at an alarming rate.

She said at the 2016 NCD summit hosted by SPC, 140 participants from around the region learnt that heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, cancer and other NCDs are the leading cause of deaths in the Pacific Island nations.

"What is really important for us is that our life expectancy is declining as the results of this leading cause of deaths from NCDs," she said.

"This is a silent tsunami," Ms Aumua said.
Large Civil Services
Limited number of graduates with research skills
Large Civil Services
Limited number of graduates with research skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEADCOUNTS</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Students</td>
<td>25,825</td>
<td>26,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Pre-degree Courses</td>
<td>8,528</td>
<td>8,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Bachelor Courses</td>
<td>14,814</td>
<td>15,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Postgraduate Courses</td>
<td>2,781</td>
<td>2,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Other Courses</td>
<td>1,281</td>
<td>1,972</td>
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11%

- Undertake a comprehensive academic review; STAR (a Strategic Total Academic Review);

- Produce graduates who are well-equipped with research literacy and skills to help address the environmental, economic, social and cultural challenges that face the Pacific region.
• USP’s Strategic Approaches
Development of Graduate Attributes
Development if compulsory courses (the UUs)
Adoption of the RSD

New Millennium, new challenges

1968 2000 2018

1st 50 years

Next 50 years?

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

- Albert Einstein
Graduate Attributes
Relatively easy to develop

- Critical Thinking
- Innovation & Creativity
- Pacific Consciousness
- Professionalism
- Ethics
- Teamwork
- Communication

- Academic excellence
- Intellectual curiosity & integrity
- Capacity for leadership & working for others
- Appreciation of the cultures of the Pacific islands
- Cross-cultural competencies
## COMPULSORY COURSES

### Relatively easy to develop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UU100</td>
<td>Communications and Information Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UU100A</td>
<td>Communications and Information Literacy</td>
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</tbody>
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**Faculty of Science, Tech & Env - School.Comp, Info & Math Sci.**

- **IT literacy**

**Faculty of Arts, Law & Education - Sch of Language Arts & Media**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UU114</td>
<td>English for Academic Purposes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**English proficiency**

**Faculty of Business-Economics - Sch of Gov, Dev & Intertnl Affs**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UU200</td>
<td>Ethics and Governance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Leadership**

**Faculty of Arts, Law & Education - Oceania Centre/Ats Cul.Pac stud**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UU204</td>
<td>Pacific Worlds</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Knowing oneself**
Relatively Difficult Assignment

- What is “critical thinking”? What is “creativity”?
- Is it possible identify a finite set of mental processes or skills that clearly show how to solve a problem; or processes that explain “what is problem-solving, or what is research”?
- If yes, can these processes or skills be taught?
- If yes, how do we know that these skills have been transferred to students and that they have the skills?
2011: *Enter the Dragon*: The RSD

L-R: Dr. Jito Vanualailai, Dr. Yoko Kanemasu, Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington [Pro VC (Learning & Teaching) of Monash University], Ms. Raijieli Bulatale and Dr. Gurmeet Singh.
Knowledge Transfer

Thank you Adelaide!

29 Aug – 2 Sept 2011

Dr. Willison and Dr. Kanematsu in deep discussions on the RSD framework

Discussions with Dr. Mike Wilmore, Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning (Humanities and Social Science) and Media Studies
Embracing all of USP’s Graduate Attributes

- Ethics
- Innovation & Creativity
- Professionalism
- Communication
- Pacific Citizenship
- Team Work
- Critical Thinking
- Sustaining Pacific societies
- Managing time and processes
- Academic conventions, and ethical perspective and environment
- Research and problem solving skills
Recommendations

1. USP adopts the RSD framework with at least 3 different approaches to using the RSD framework:
   a. Developing a diagnostic assessment;
   b. Developing RSD marking rubrics for assignment and/or project assessment;
   c. Curriculum re-shaping.

2. USP adopts the 3-year implementation plan and set aside $200,000 for the implementation.
Recommendations
Accepted by Senior Management

- Implementation started in 2012, beginning with the compulsory courses, the UUs.
- 4 ways of RSD implementation:
  * training;
  * marking rubric design;
  * marking rubric implementation;
  * and monitoring of implementation (external review of rubric).
So far...

STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

2012-2016: 16 Interactive workshops/trainings

500 academic and support staff count

2015: Community of Practice
STATUS  [face-to-face/online/blended]

▸ 80% Implementation Level in 81 courses
▸ 25 Disciplines
▸ 8 Disciplines - all 3 levels
▸ All 100 & 400 level generic courses

FUTURE: Program implementation
Research Skills Development (RSD) is about explicit and coherent development of research literacy and skills in a systematic manner from the undergraduate to postgraduate levels in University curricula. Integration of research literacy and skills in USP curricula is intended to produce graduates who are ‘discerning consumers’ of knowledge and capable of undertaking independent, evidence-based, research.
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF USE

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› RSD Handbooks

Please click on the links below to download the files. Note: You must agree to the Terms and Conditions before download begins:

- USP RSD Handbook for Undergraduate Level 2015
- USP RSD Training December 2013 – Handbook for 200-level courses
- RSD Training – RSD at USP Handbook March 2013

› Undergraduate Generic Courses

› Foundation Courses

› Undergraduate Discipline-based Courses

› Postgraduate Courses