

SINU Council passes 2024 budget

On Tuesday, November 14th 2023, the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Council approved the 2024 budget of \$240,342,783, showing an increase of \$10,583,782 from 2023.

The breakdown includes a \$182,345,383 recurrent budget and a significant government grant.

The council unanimously endorsed the 2024 budget based on recommendations from the Finance and Resources Committee.

During the recent meeting of the SINU Council, several crucial agendas were discussed and approved. The three key items on the agenda are outlined below:

1. Revised Physical Master Plan 2022-2032:

The Council resolved to adopt and approve the Revised Physical Master Plan 2022-2032 for immediate implementation. Additionally, there was a recommendation for the management to develop the University Academic Masterplan. In line with this, Director IPA, Darius Darlyn Ramo, was designated to coordinate the development of the Academic Master Plan in consultation with the Deans.

2. SINU Academic Calendar 2024:

The Council resolved to adopt and approve the 2024 SINU Academic Calendar. As per the Council's recommendation, the approved Academic Calendar will be circulated to all staff and the National Sporting Council for the hiring of SINU facilities in 2024.

3. Amendment to Study Leave Policy:

The Council made amendments to the Study Leave Policy. Additionally, the Council took the following decisions:

- To make note of the dates of the National General Election 2024 once declared and to implement necessary measures ensuring SINU Staff and Students have the liberty to exercise their democratic rights.
- To be attentive to the official release of the King's Birthday date and put in place any required measures accordingly.

These decisions reflect the commitment of the SINU Council to strategic planning, academic excellence, and the well-being of its staff and students.

The Council resolved to approve Policy amendment of the

The Council resolved to approve Policy amendment of the Study Benefit Policy of 2019 Section 1, 2 and 3 as follows: "That the Council notes the review of the current HR Policy with reference to the Study Leave Policy."

"That the Council approves the recommendation (as per the amended Study Policy) that during study leave period, the Staff member will be eligible to receive eighty percent of their basic salary."

"Noting that that this provision covers the basic salary only and excludes all other benefits that staff members are typically eligible for when they are not on study leave."

"That the Council approves to the duration of Study Leave, the maximum permissible period of study leaves with pay to be as follows: (a) 28 months (2 years) to obtain a Master's degree with or by research."

"(b) 39 months (3 years & 3 months) to obtain a Doctoral degree."

"(c) Where obtaining a Master's degree is a condition precedent to registering for a Doctoral degree, 45 months (3 years & 9 months) to obtain both a Master's degree and a Doctoral degree."

"(d) A Staff who has already been granted study leave to obtain a Master's degree may be granted the balance period to obtain a Doctoral degree, ensuring that the total study leave granted to the Staff does not exceed the limit of 45 months (3 years & 9 months) in total study leave entitlement."

In accordance with the Council's recommendation, the Director of Human Resources is tasked with informing all staff members and disseminating the updated study leave policy.

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Proposed amendment on SINU remuneration and benefits policy deferred

The Joint Senate and Senior Management Committee had adjourned the motion to amend the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Remuneration and Benefits Policy for early next year 2024.

The amendment of the SINU Remuneration and Benefits Policy was one of the four key agendas presented for deliberation during the Joint Senate and Senior Management Committee (SMC) meeting held on Wednesday, 14 November 2023.

Following thorough discussion, it was collectively decided by the Joint Senate and Senior Management Committee at the motion requires additional consultation before a conclusive decision can be reached on the matter. This reflects a commitment to careful consideration and inclusive decision-making processes to ensure that any amendments made align with the best interests and welfare of all stakeholders involved.

“The Motion was deferred to be discussed at the 1st Senate and SMC Meeting in 2024 as the Joint Committee acknowledged the recommendation of the need for further consultation to be undertaken by the stake-

holders of the approved admission criteria of the program for implementation, to ensure the content of the Entry Examination is endorsed by the SQO for compliance, and to ensure that potential students who have applied for the program to be notified accordingly and to provide the advice on the approach by which the examination will be undertaken.



Members of the Joint Senate and Senior Management Committee from Panatina campus presented an item at the closure of the meeting.



Members of the Joint Senate and Senior Management Committee posed for a group photo after a successful meeting.

holders of the University.”

“As recommended during the Joint Senate and Senior Management Council, the Human Resource Department should organize consultation workshop and meetings with faculties and departments on the proposed amendment.”

Another motion that was deferred for next year is the “Examination Moderation Policy” which was deferred to be discussed at the first Senate Meeting in 2024.

As recommended by the Joint senate, responsible Officers to re-examine the proposed policy and to present the policy at the first meeting of Senate in February 2024.

Furthermore, the Joint senate also deliberate on the motion “Entry Examination Admission for the Diploma of Nursing Programme.”

The Joint Senate and Senior Management Committee has recognized the need for an inclusion of an entry examination in the admission criteria for the Diploma of Nursing programme.

This is to ensure academically qualified students are enrolled in the program resolved to approve the recommendation for the inclusion of an entry examination criteria for the Diploma of Nursing Programme effective 2024.

As recommended by the joint senate the responsible officers: to take note



Joint Senate and Senior Management Committee meeting in progress.



On the left Council Secretary Ms. Vanessa Hiele and on the right Assistant minute secretary Maureen Qaqara taking notes during the meeting.

Students thankful after completing professional learning experience

Two senior accounting students, Ruth Babalu and Jolex Wane Fuibesi, who engaged in a 12-week professional learning experience at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) within the Institutional Planning Division (IPD), express their gratitude and admiration for SINU's support.

Having commenced their professional learning journey with the IPD in August 2022, Ruth Babalu and Jolex Wane Fuibesi successfully completed their 12-week practical experience on November 17, 2023. The IPD office bid them farewell in a brief ceremony.

During the farewell event held at the IPD office on November 17, 2023, Ms. Babalu conveyed her appreciation to SINU for accepting them into the professional learning program with the IPD office. She

Also speaking during the brief farewell ceremony, IPD Director Darius Darlyn Ramo congratulated the two students for their time, dedication, and effort in completing their required tasks.

The IPD Director, in extending congratulations to the two students, conveyed well-wishes for their upcoming journey into the next chapter, specifically in the pursuit of securing employment.



IPD Director Darius Darlyn Ramo having a discussion with the two students on a 12 weeks professional learning experience with IPD office at SINU.

emphasized that this experience is a pivotal step in fulfilling their final year course requirements. She mentioned that they have learnt a lot during the 12 weeks and feel well prepared to enter the field after completing their time at SINU. Meanwhile, Mr. Fuibesi highlighted that the professional learning experience enabled him to apply the theories he acquired as an accounting student. He expressed gratitude to SINU for providing him with this valuable opportunity.



Ruth Babalu and Jolex Wane Fuibesi together with IPD Director cut a cake as witnessed by staff of IPD and PRO to mark the end of the 12 weeks professional learning experience for the two students.

He further encouraged the student interns to be faithful and respectful in their future work environment and always do what is right as good character plays a major role in one's life in a work environment.

He said the two students have done well and have passed their professional learning experience, a crucial achievement which will qualify them to graduate from SINU School of Business and Management.



IPD and PRO staff posed with the two students on professional learning experience with the IPD office on their final day.



IPD Director Darius Darlyn Ramo giving a farewell speech as IPD and PRO farewell the two students on 12 weeks professional learning experience.

SINU successfully hosts learning event for Provincial Premiers

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) has successfully hosted provincial premiers and some provincial secretaries in a one day 'Learning Event', demonstrating the institution's seriousness in strongly promoting its core values.

The Strengthening Competitiveness, Agriculture, Livelihood, and Environment – Natural Resource Management (SCALE-NRM) Project, funded by USAID, has achieved notable success in supporting the Malaita Provincial Government and its people. The project has developed measures to safeguard forest resources from unsustainable logging practices, addressing a critical issue for the Solomon Islands.



Provincial Premiers, some provincial secretaries, members of SCALE-NRM and SINU staff who are part of the one day learning event.

The project has facilitated the creation of an ordinance called the Forest Business Licenses Ordinance (FBLO) which will empower the Malaita Provincial Government to regulate the use and protection of forests. This initiative not only contributes to the reduction of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions but is expected to also generate revenue for the province.

SINU Vice Chancellor Dr Transform Aqorau, expressed pleasure in providing a platform for provincial leaders to gain insights into the "remarkable achievement".

"We believe that understanding and potentially adopting similar measures could greatly enhance capacity of other provincial governments to safeguard their people and resources."

Historically, provincial governments have had limited capacity to influence logging activities, as permits and licensing predominantly fall under the purview of the Solomon Islands National Government.

The newly strengthened Forest Business License Ordinance (FBLO) developed by SCALE-NRM offers a transformative approach. It provides regulatory authority and administrative procedures for the transparent issuance of provincial logging business licenses and ensures compliance with the conditions defined in the FBLO.

Dr Aqorau further stated that the "self-funded business licensing scheme could set a precedent for reducing illegal logging, not only in the Solomon Islands but across the Pacific region".

"It represents a significant step towards enabling provincial governments and their communities to exert greater control over their forest resources."

"As the Vice Chancellor of SINU, I am continually committed to fostering an environment that champions innovative solutions to both



SINU Pro-Vice Chancellor Academic Dr. Eric Katovai speaking at the learning event at Heritage Park Hotel.

longstanding and emerging challenges."

SCALE-NRM Project Chief of Party Dr Morgan Wairiu expressed appreciation to SINU for recognizing the innovative initiative and providing a platform whereby other provinces can learn lessons and possibly develop for their provinces.

Dr Wairiu stated that the Strong support and commitment from the provincial Government to control logging and manage natural resources in Malaita has resulted in the successful development and passage of the ordinance.

Dr Wairiu stated that the FBLO will contribute to a drawdown of over 360,000 tons of CO2 over a five-year period, which is the equivalent of taking 78,260 cars off the road for an entire year.

He added "because provinces cannot control logging without much needed revenue, this scheme, through fees and increase cost imposed to conduct logging operation will ensure enforcement and compliance. This is also consistent and complements the National Forest Policy, an effort to address the already unsustainable forestry practices".

Speaking during the opening of the one-day workshop at the Heritage Park Hotel on Wednesday 29 November, Malaita Deputy Premier Joe Heroau thanked SINU and SCALE-NRM for bringing the Premiers together on the very important event.

Premier Heroau said while logging played a pivotal role in the economic trajectory of the country, its benefits comes at a cost.

"The challenges posed by logging industry are multifaceted."

"Environmental degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and social dislocation are just a few of the issues we grapple with," he added.

"As stewards of our land, it is our responsibility to strike a balance between economic development and the preservation of our natural resources for future generation."

In the meantime, Guadalcanal Premier Francis Sade thanked SINU stating the learning event is an eye opener for Premiers where he said they are looking forward to take the initiative on-board.

SINU staff profile

Name: Memorio Roy

Province: Guadalcanal

Age: 44

Work station: Kukum Campus

Department: Security

Job title: Assistant Chief Security Officer (ACSO)/ Investigation

Qualification: Form Six/ former police officer.

How long have you been working here? I joined SINU in 2020.

Tell us about your job: I do investigation work and recover SINU stolen properties.

Why SINU? I chose SINU because it is the only university owned by Solomon Islands and I want be part of its vibrant workforce.

What do you like about SINU and your job? I like the working environment here at SINU, and I like my job investigating corruption and corrupt practices and keeping SINU safe and secure for staff and students.



Pictorial: Pacific games athletes enjoying food at SINU Mess Kukum campus



Team Guam



Team New Caledonia



Team Tahiti



Team Tonga

About Us:



SINU

Solomon Islands National University
P.O. Box R113
Honiara
Solomon Islands

www.sinu.edu.sb
www.facebook.com/SINU.edu

For Newsletter inquiries, contact our Marketing & Promotions Office on:

Phone: 30111 Ext 252 or 42631
E-mail: pro@sinu.edu.sb

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Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is the Prime and ONLY National University of Solomon Islands.

Founded in 2013, SINU is striving to be one of the Best Education and Research Institute in the Region.

Our VISION: "A quality National University, raising Standards of education and applied research in the

Pacific Region."

Our Mission: "Championing the pursuit of knowledge, skills, academic inquiry and applied research to transform lives through higher education and training, inclusive of diverse communities, while providing relevant solutions for the Solomon Islands.