



SINUSA–Management Dialogue

**Theme: “Building a Stronger University
Community through Dialogue and
Partnership” Professor Transform Aqorau
Vice Chancellor**

May 21, 2026



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Vice Chancellor

Thursday, 21 May 2026
Kukum Lecture Theatre, Kukum Campus

Good morning, everyone.

Let me begin by acknowledging the presence of the SINUSA Executive, student leaders, students from our different faculties and campuses, members of University Management, academic and professional staff, and all those who have helped make this dialogue possible.

I wish to begin by sincerely thanking the SINUSA Executive for organising and supporting this important dialogue. I also want to thank SINUSA for helping to create this space where students and Management can come together in a spirit of openness, respect, and partnership.

This is an important moment for our University. It is important because dialogue is one of the ways we build trust. It is important because students must have a voice in the life of the University. It is important because the University cannot grow stronger if we do not listen carefully to one another.

The theme for this dialogue is “Building a Stronger University Community through Dialogue and Partnership.” That theme is appropriate because a university is not built by buildings alone. It is not built by policies alone. It is not built by management alone. A university is built by people — by students, staff, academics, administrators, leaders, and the wider community working together with a shared commitment to learning, service, discipline, respect, and the common good.

Today, we are here because students matter.

Students are not an interruption to the work of the University. Students are the reason for the University. You are at the centre of why SINU exists. Our classrooms, our offices, our

laboratories, our libraries, our policies, our systems, our plans, our partnerships, and our development priorities must ultimately support your learning, your growth, your welfare, your character, and your future.

A university that does not listen to its students cannot truly understand itself. Students see things that Management may not always see. Students experience the University in a direct and personal way. You know whether classes are delivered well. You know whether marks are delayed. You know whether services are responsive. You know whether facilities are adequate. You know whether communication is clear. You know whether you feel safe, supported, respected, and included.

That is why your voice matters.

As we gather for this dialogue, I want us to approach the concerns raised by students with openness and respect. This is not about rehearsed questions or prepared answers. It is about listening carefully to the lived experiences of our students and responding honestly, constructively, and as best we can in the moment.

The concerns that students bring to this dialogue are more than individual comments or isolated issues. They are a window into how students are experiencing the University in their daily lives. They help us understand where students feel supported, and where they feel improvements are needed. They remind us that the student experience is shaped by many parts of the University working together — the academic environment, the welfare and support environment, the administrative environment, the physical learning environment, the social environment, and the values and conduct that define our University community.

That is why this dialogue matters. It gives us an opportunity to listen, to clarify, to explain, and to think together about practical ways forward. We may not have all the answers immediately. Some matters may require further consultation, more information, or follow-up with the relevant offices. But what we can do today is listen sincerely, respond honestly, and commit ourselves to working together in good faith.

The student experience is not shaped by one thing only. It is shaped by the quality of teaching. It is shaped by whether lecturers attend classes. It is shaped by whether course outlines are completed on time. It is shaped by whether results and marks are released promptly. It is shaped by whether academic administration is responsive and fair.

It is also shaped by whether students can access counselling, health support, academic support, internet services, library resources, ICT facilities, accommodation, sanitation, and financial assistance. These are not secondary issues. They affect whether students can study well, remain focused, and succeed.

The student experience is shaped by whether the University communicates clearly. It is shaped by whether students understand decisions that affect them. It is shaped by whether SINUSA has a meaningful role in representing student concerns. It is shaped by whether students feel that they can contribute to University life and decision-making in a constructive way.

It is shaped by whether our classrooms, laboratories, study spaces, offices, hostels, and campuses are safe, functional, and fit for purpose. It is shaped by whether our facilities are properly maintained and whether the University is planning responsibly for growth, increasing enrolment, and future development.

It is also shaped by whether students feel that their qualifications will prepare them for employment, entrepreneurship, leadership, and service to Solomon Islands. A university must not only produce graduates with certificates. It must help form people who can think, lead, serve, create, innovate, and contribute to national development.

And it is shaped by culture — by whether we promote unity among students from different provinces and backgrounds; whether we support clubs, associations, sports, and cultural activities; whether we address alcohol abuse, violence, harassment, anti-social behaviour, and damage to University property; and whether staff and students alike conduct themselves with discipline, dignity, and respect.

These are all matters that go to the heart of what kind of University we want SINU to become.

Some of the concerns students may raise today may be encouraging. They may show that students are thinking deeply about the future of SINU, about how they can contribute, and about how we can build partnership rather than confrontation.

Some concerns may also be uncomfortable. They may relate to staff attendance, access to offices, customer service, professionalism, workplace conduct, discipline, smoking, betel nut, or other behaviours that affect the image and standards of the University. These are difficult matters, but difficult matters should not be ignored.

If students are raising these concerns, then we must listen.

We may not agree with every perception. We may have explanations for some of the issues raised. Some matters may already be receiving attention. Some matters may be more complex than they appear. Some problems may involve limited resources, aging infrastructure, staffing constraints, financial pressures, or processes that take time to change.

But we should not be defensive.

The purpose of today's dialogue is not to blame one another. It is not to embarrass anyone. It is not to create division between students and staff, or between SINUSA and Management. The purpose is to listen, to clarify, to explain, to acknowledge, and to identify pathways forward.

We may not have answers to all matters raised today. I want to be honest about that. Some concerns will require further consultation with the relevant faculties, schools, departments, divisions, and offices. Some will require data. Some will require budget consideration. Some will require policy review. Some will require changes in behaviour and culture. Some will require longer-term planning.

But at least today gives us the opportunity to sit together and begin the work.

That is important.

A university cannot solve its challenges if people do not talk to each other. A university cannot grow if students feel unheard. A university cannot improve if Management refuses to listen. A university cannot build trust if concerns are dismissed. And a university cannot fulfil its national mission if students and staff see each other as opponents rather than partners.

We may not always agree with each other. That is normal. In a university, people should be able to think, question, debate, and disagree. But even when we disagree, we must agree on something greater: that we are all here for the common good of SINU and for the future of Solomon Islands.

We must agree that students deserve quality education.

We must agree that staff deserve to work in an environment that supports professionalism and service.

We must agree that our campuses should be safe, clean, disciplined, and welcoming.

We must agree that our systems must become more responsive.

We must agree that communication must improve.

We must agree that leadership is not only about authority, but about service.

We must agree that SINU must become stronger, more respected, more accountable, and more student-centred.

This dialogue is therefore not an end in itself. It is a beginning. It is part of a wider effort to strengthen communication, improve mutual understanding, and build a stronger sense of partnership between students and University leadership.

Trust is not built in one meeting. Trust is built through consistency. Trust is built when people see that their concerns are heard. Trust is built when words are followed by action. Trust is built when students see that Management is willing to explain honestly what can be done, what cannot be done immediately, and what must be planned for the future.

To our students, I want to say this: your concerns are valued. Your voice matters. Your experience matters. But I also want to encourage you to exercise that voice with responsibility, respect, and a spirit of partnership.

Raise concerns but also propose solutions. Ask questions but also be prepared to contribute. Hold the University accountable but also hold yourselves accountable as members of this University community.

The future of SINU will not be built by Management alone. It will not be built by SINUSA alone. It will not be built by Government alone. It will be built by all of us accepting shared responsibility for the kind of University we want SINU to become.

To members of Management and staff, I also say this: let us listen carefully today. Let us not treat student concerns as criticism to be resisted, but as feedback to be understood. Let us

respond with humility, clarity, honesty, and seriousness. Where we can provide answers, let us provide them. Where we can identify solutions, let us identify them. Where we need time, let us explain why. Where pathways are possible, let us commit ourselves to those pathways.

Our students are asking us to be better. That is not something we should fear. It is something we should welcome.

Every great university must be willing to examine itself. Every great university must be willing to change. Every great university must be willing to listen to its students.

SINU is still growing. We have challenges, but we also have opportunities. We have limitations, but we also have people with commitment, talent, and goodwill. We have problems to solve, but we also have the chance to build something meaningful for this country.

Let this dialogue be conducted in the spirit of respect. Let it be honest, but not destructive. Let it be open, but not disorderly. Let it be critical, but also constructive. Let it be student-centred, but also University-minded.

Let it help us move from frustration to understanding, from concern to action, and from separation to partnership.

I thank SINUSA once again for its leadership in helping to organise this dialogue. I thank our students for being willing to speak, to share, and to engage. I thank Management and staff for being present and for their willingness to listen and respond. And I thank all of you for being part of this important moment in the life of our University.

We are here today because we believe SINU can be better.

We are here because we believe students and Management can talk to each other.

We are here because we believe that dialogue is better than silence, partnership is better than confrontation, and shared responsibility is better than blame.

I look forward to our dialogue.

Thank you.