



Pacific Immigration Development Community

2021/22 Board Meeting 2 (Teleconference)

12 and 14 April 2022, Apia, Samoa

Agenda item 7 (d): USP Academic Programme Update

Recommendations

The Board is invited to consider recommendations proposed below.

Purpose

This paper provides an update on the USP and PIDC Postgraduate Certificate & Diploma in Border Security Programmes for the 2021/22 Financial Year.

Background

2. The PIDC – USP Postgraduate Diploma in Border Security has now been in operation since January 2020. The programme aims to: (a) provide opportunities to PIDC Member Officers in academic training allowing them to obtain an academic award which now is often required to hold executive positions; and (b) strengthen the body knowledge on Pacific Island migration concerns having input from the PICT immigration and border enforcement community.

USP and PIDC Academic Programme Milestone & Updates

3. The total number of enrolled students is 77 at the beginning of the 2nd cohort whereby 31 students completed their third program paper PP406 ‘Organizational Business Model’ and currently doing the final paper PP407 – ‘International Cooperation, Partnership, and Peacekeeping’, including the 9 students who were approved to take two courses, the PP407 and PP404 – ‘Border Management and the Security Context’ concurrently. Notably, not all Members are using the scholarship opportunities provide even though many students sponsored by PIDC have done well. The USP-PIDC programme will attain another milestone in May 2022 as many immigration students will be awarded a Diploma in Border Security.

4. Unfortunately, USP has advised that only PP407 will be taught during the current trimester and PP404 will not be offered due to Mr. Tevita Tupou (Instructor) being recruited by another Organization and the programme will be finding his replacement. Consequently, the students not completed with PP404 will be provided with an alternate unit to finish their course as recognised by USP.

5. The Secretariat continues to engage with USP in negotiation for the upgrading of the Programme to a full online Masters Programme as tasked by the Board last December. Unfortunately, due to Mr. Tupou’s USP departure, the Border Security Masters plan has taken a full turn for PGDBSP graduated students. USP advised that for those Students interested in pursuing Masters can register for the Masters in Diplomacy and International Affairs (DIA), an existing USP Course. The Secretariat negotiated a Research Paper in Immigration and Border Security to be added to the DIA Masters to meet the objectives for Immigration Officers. Ultimately, the recommendation was accepted, and therefore, Students interested

in pursuing Masters in Diplomacy and International Affairs should fill out the registration forms with their Curriculum vitae and submit them to Ms. Sonal Sharma of USP. It is an opportunity for those who are done with their post-graduate diploma.

PIDC Funding Support and Member Enrolment

6. From the total number of 77 students that have enrolled in the beginning of the 2nd cohort, 31 students still remain; currently doing the final programme paper PP-407 'International Cooperation, Partnership, and Peacekeeping', and 9 students took two courses concurrently to complete the 1st cohort awaiting USP advice for a replacement paper. Of the 31 students, 13 are currently sponsored by PIDC as outlined below:

	Member	PP-407	Scholarships
1	Fiji	16	3
2	Niue	2	0
3	Samoa	2	2
4	Solomon Islands	4	3
5	Tonga	5	5
6	Vanuatu	2	0
	Total	31	13

7. With a few exceptions, PIDC sponsored students have performed relatively well. However, Members are encouraged to nominate students who are capable of completing the course so that the skill sets within the immigration community would improve while development funding is maximised. Also, to encourage students who have completed their PGDBSP to register for the Masters in Diplomacy and International Affairs, the Secretariat recommends that the Board agree to sponsor these students which will commence in September 2022.

8. The joint USP-PIDC academic programme will achieve another significant milestone on May 2022 with another expected USP graduation of the second group of pioneer students being awarded the Postgraduate Diploma certificate in Border Security.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- i) **welcome** the update provided by the Secretariat regarding the joint USP-PIDC academic programme for Immigration officers in the Pacific;
- ii) **note** the progress of the USP Postgraduate Diploma in 2022;
- iii) **request** Members to encourage staff to enrol in the Masters looking to commence in September 2022;
- iv) **discuss** the funding of the Masters in Diplomacy and International Affairs; and
- v) **task** the Secretariat to continue working with USP and to monitor and support the efforts of the second PIDC Cohort to successfully complete the requirements of the academic year.