

TEN YEAR PACIFIC STATISTICS STRATEGY (TYPSS) Phase II

12th Pacific Steering Committee Meeting

Tanoa Waterfront Hotel, Lautoka, Fiji Islands
Wednesday, 1st June 2016



PSSC-12 Agenda Item 4.4

**Degree Programme on Official
Statistics at USP and
Resourcing of the Training
Program**

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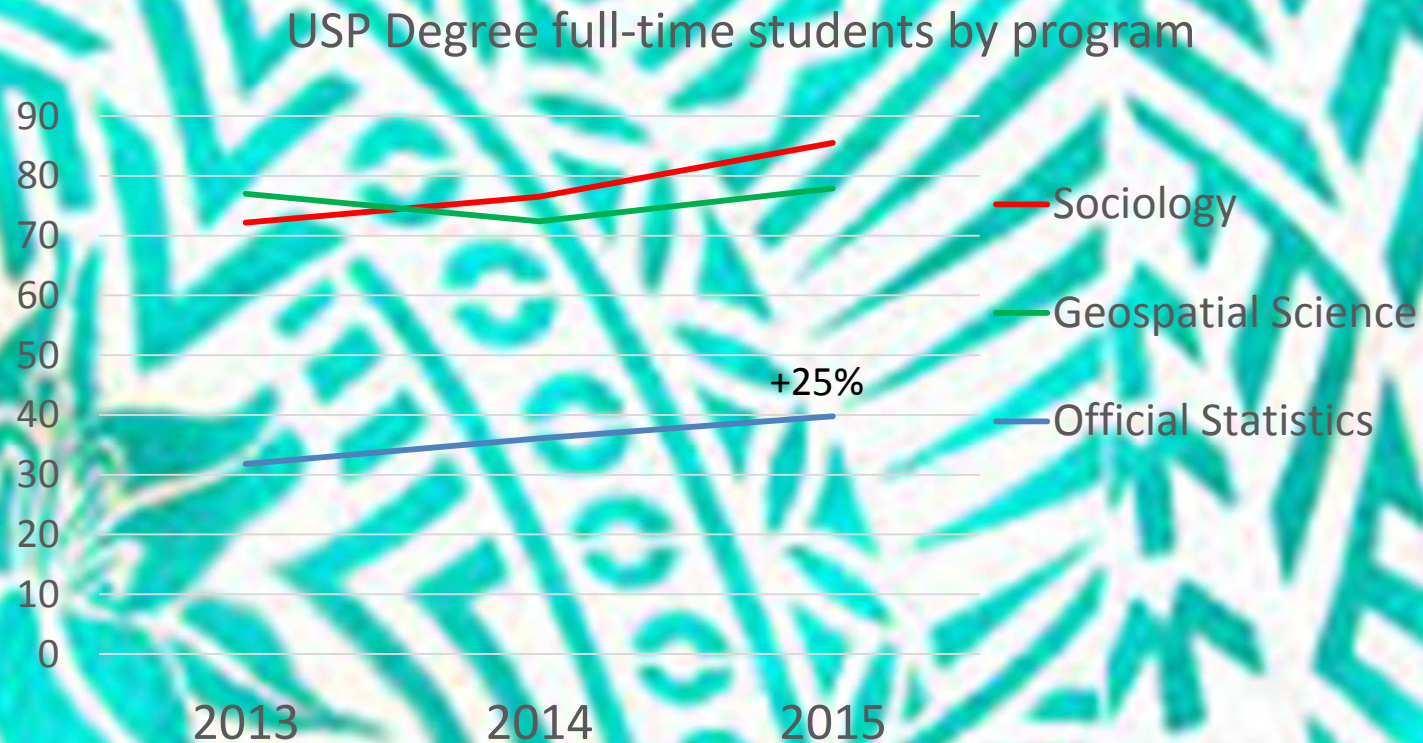
I. USP Official Statistics (OS) Program

- Program established in 2007 with EU funding
- Certificate, diploma and degree
- 2015-16: Course contents revised and updated (funded by UNFPA)
- 2016: Conversion of all courses for online offering
- Two new courses OS203 and OS303 (developed by ABS) to be offered from Sem.2, 2016

I. Extracurricular activities

- July 2015: 6-day workshop on 'Data analysis and report writing' (funded by UNFPA)
- Oct 2015: 3-day workshop on 'Data visualization and communication in the Pacific' (funded by Paris21 and jointly organized with Paris21-SPC)
- Promotional visits to 55 Secondary schools in Fiji (funded by UNFPA)
- Panel discussion for the World Statistics Day
- PD post-graduate student internship at SPC Statistics Division
- Research visits to NSOs (Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa)

Key Issues/Challenges: Low enrolment



- 2015: listed as “endangered” – “bailout” plan was endorsed by Senate

Key Issues/Challenges: Staff Shortage

- Only one dedicated senior staff – teaching staff “borrowed” from other programs
- Reliance on international recruitment
- Teaching intensive workload – staff unable to perform well in other duties (research)
- Poor retention

Key Issues/Challenges:

Lack of Research and Postgraduate Studies

- Lack of PG studies undermines attractiveness of OS program for top performing students
- Limited capacity to develop PG study curriculum
- Lack of research relevant to OS implies that:
 - Staff involvement in OS program is unattractive
 - No internal capacity building for junior staff
 - Potential for feeding research findings back into the data production cycle remains unfulfilled

Key Recommendation 1

Funding of undergraduate scholarships

- In response to PSSC-11's Decision No. 35 "to examine further the idea of sponsoring students"
- Overall objective: To increase the attractiveness and sustainability of the OS Program
- Expected outcomes:
 - Increased visibility/marketability
 - Improved financial viability
 - Leverage for allocation of additional dedicated staff by USP

Key Recommendation 2

Funding of postgraduate scholarships

- Scholarships for Master students in demography or economics working on OS relevant topic
- Main objective: to build capacity at post-graduate level and address staff shortages
- Expected outcomes:
 - Teaching support for senior staff
 - Research in OS relevant area produced by students and staff
 - Small pool of regional candidates for junior-level academic jobs at USP

Budget narrative

- 6 x Undergraduate scholarships @ FJD 30,000 for a full 3-year bachelor program = FJD 180,000
- 2 x Post-graduate scholarship (Graduate or Teaching Assistant) @ FJD 30,000 per year = FJD 60,000 x 3 years = FJD 180,000
- Total FJD 360,000 over 3 years 2016 – 2018 out of savings from Coordination Unit's annual budget

THANK YOU

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Further information visit:

<http://www.econ.fbe.usp.ac.fj/index.php?id=18459>