

First Newsletter of the Tonga Institute of Higher Education (TIHE)-2020

SEMESTER ONE

First assembly for this year was led by the President of the Free Constitution Church of Tonga, Reverend Kinitoni Mafi, based on “Having Jesus in our life is having all”.

All TIHE students gathered together to mark the beginning of this academic year and the total enrollment for each school in semester 1 is as follows:

• School of Information and Technology	174 students
• School of Accounting	112 students
• School of Tourism	155 students
• School of Media and Journalism	54
• School of Agriculture	72
A Total of	567 students

Out of all students there are 132 males and 435 females.

Trainings

At the beginning of this semester some trainings and workshops were conducted for the staff and Part Time Tutors.

- Setting examination papers which was led by Jennytima Fekau from the Examination Unit of the Ministry of Education.
- Using Online learning and Moodle and was conducted by Loseti Mahe and Sonatane Kauvaka.
- Online Training on using Online Educational Resources for some staffs and it was hosted by Common Wealth of Learning. Some staffs successfully completed the programs. Those who got a certificate were Malia Sio, Lesieli Malupo, Ma’ata Vaka.
- On March, there was also a training hosted by the School of Tourism and Hospitality based on Accreditation of courses and it was led by Mr. Vilimaka Foliaki from TNQAB.
- The school is planning to have a First Aid training in May.

Student Councilors and welcoming of new students

The new student councilors were conducted during our second assembly on February, 2020. In this assembly Australian Scholarship Officer, New Zealand Scholarship Officer presented on the scholarship of the two respective countries. Another team from the Ombudsmen presented more of an awareness to students, their work and why they are useful for staffs and students.

Councilors in each of the five schools of the Institute are listed as follows

School of Accounting

Diploma Program

1. Lose Sime

Certificate Program

1. Kalolaine Tu’ineau Kolotau

2.Mele Hansen

3.Karlis Wellington Lucis

4.Ma'ukie 'Otunuku

2.Gabriel Naufahu

3.Uelingatoni Havea

4.Siosaia Launoa

School of Media and Journalism

Diploma programme

1.Luseane Tomasi

2.Alexander 'Aho

1.Kilisitina Moala

2.Luseane Tomasi

School of Tourism

1.Diploma in Hospitality Operation

2.Diploma in Tourism Management

3.Diploma in Business

4.Diploma in Information Technology

5.National Certificate in Customer Service

6.National Certificate in Tour Guide

1. 'Ana Tohu'ia Toke

1. Mele Lalamea Fononga

2.Filipo Manumu'a

1.Heather Fuka

1.Nunia Latu

1.Fe'iloaki he 'ofa Mateabaki

School of Information Program

Diploma Program

1.Lavinia 'Ofanoa

2.Lesieli Malupo

3.Sefeti Ha'unga

4.Hale Finau

Certificate Program

1.Seini Moata'ane

2.Ma'ata Vaka

3.Sioen Peau

4.Isikeli Fifita

The new students were welcomed by the Diploma program students which are the year two students. It was a very enjoyable day for both students and staff.

The staff also hosted a welcome dinner for the Part Time teachers at the school compound after training on setting examination papers. This gathering was to build our relationship with them and made them feel they are part of the school.

In March, Taina Kami Enoka from PACMAS offered their assistance for Media and Journalism on behalf of PACMAS. The school is looking forward for the help of PACMAS on the school's accreditation with TNQAB (Tonga National Quality Accreditation Board).

Mele'ana Koloto a PhD student at the Faculty of Education at Victoria University visited the school to share her research based on the policy and practice of inclusive special education in Tonga. She wanted to explore the experiences of post-secondary individuals with special

educational needs (SEN) and their families in accessing education. Her study aims to provide an insight into how Tongan families support the education and development of their post-secondary members with SEN, and how they can inform and promote a strength and evidence-based ISE policy and practice in Tonga.

Lastly the school still wishes to acknowledge our collaboration with the Auckland Institute of Studies and the Common Wealth of Learning.

COVID-19 Lock down

During month of March to April the school was lock down due to Covid -19. The Ministry of Education declared a school holiday for two weeks, commenced on the last week of March and ended on 13th of April. School started on the 14th of April. As a result, the students and staff had a holiday for two weeks. Most of the staff worked from home except the skeleton staffs. Students utilized online learning through Moodle to be their learning resource. TIHE is very proud to acknowledge the tiring effort and commitment of our IT team in establishing our Moodle which is very vital in this COVID 19 lock down.

During lockdown both permanent staffs and Part Time Lecturers were required to upload their lecture notes, exercises, assessments and any resources in relation to their courses to Moodle in preparation if corona virus will be in Tonga to help our students learning from home.

The students and staff must try their best to follow all instructions from the government in relation to social distancing and washing of hands to prepare if any corona virus will be in Tonga.

School Program after Covid -19 Lock down and two weeks holidays

Due to the holidays, our timetable was changed to accommodate students with their preparation for exams. Our examination date was postponed to the following dates

Semester 1 Examination for School of Tourism and Hospitality

27th April-1st May: National Certificates for Customer Service and Tour Guide

4th May -8th May: Diploma Tourism and Hospitality

For all school programs

15th June-Semester one Final Examination for all programs begins

19th June: Semester 1 Final Examination for all Programs ends.

After this examination for semester two then the school will have it's two weeks holiday.