STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION

04/11/2022

Dear Student,

This is to update you on the major activities carried out by the recently established Student Support and Welfare Services with the aim of taking care of your welfare needs during your stay at the University of Peradeniya.

1. Accommodation Facilities

- Wijewardene Hall: The hall was completely renovated and students have been assigned.
- Arunachalama Hall: The first floor was totally renovated and handed back to students while the upper floor will be renovated and returned to students by February 2023.
- Furniture for hostels: Bunk beds for Sarasavi Medura have been ordered.

2. Canteens

The meal prices of the main meals and selected food items were revised in consultation of both students and canteen operators recently and the prices agreed upon were communicated to the canteens.

The university continues to subsidize the meal prices by providing the building place, electricity, and water. Furthermore, the university supplies furniture and essential utensils. In light of the recent LPG issue, the university provided charcoal-operated stoves for canteens upon request. Minor repairs such as fixing roof leaks, colour washing of walls, and fixing damaged walls and floors were completed.

Repairs to the canteen of the Mahakanda Hall will be completed this week.

3. Healthcare Facilities

COVID-19: The university provided the following during the peak progression time of the disease.

- Provision of intensive care at an intermediate care center and severely ill students were managed at teaching hospital Peradeniya.
- Setting up of quarantine centers within the university.
- Free of charge testing facilities such as RAT and PCR.
- Vaccination: A number of vaccination camps were organized for students to provide the first second and booster doses.

Other Medical Assistance —

- The university will continue to provide vaccination for Hepatitis B, Rabies, tetanus toxoid and varicella on demand.
- Medical testing facilities for students who are sick.

4. Counseling and Psychological Support for Students

The UOP has recognized that a significant number of undergraduates are under some kind of stress which could be multifactorial. To minimize the suicidal risk, and prevent them from becoming depressed the UOP has offered a counseling facility by launching the Counselling and Psychological Support Unit (CaPSU). The Department of Psychiatry of the Faculty of Medicine and the Department of Psychology of the Faculty of Arts has given immense support during COVID -19 pandemic to the students who seek psychological support.

5. Financial Assistance

- In addition to 7000 Mahapola and over 1000 bursaries provided by the government, the university provides the following;
 - i. Assistantships for 660 students arranged through individual faculty level.
 - ii. Establishment of a working student assistantship program (WSAP) for nearly 300 needy students.
 - iii. Provision of laptop computers for a few needy students.
- Short Term Financial Assistance

Most of the faculties have organized short-term scholarships for needy students who asked for financial support during the locked down period. Further, the Faculty of Medicine has organized a transport facility to bring down students during the lockdown period for their essential training.

6. Assistance During Disasters

The university provides emergency assistance during disasters. The most recent example of the provision of financial assistance and temporary residential facilities for over 50 students affected by a fire that broke out in a private residential facility.

7. Students are given the opportunity to meet the Vice-chancellor, DVC, and other administrative officers to discuss matters

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Deputy Vice-chancellor

Deputy Vice-Chancellor University of Peradeniya Peradeniya Prof. Manoji Pathirage
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