

Universities of the Ministry of Public Health and student leaders training in the current health situation

Universidades del Ministerio de Salud Pública y la formación de dirigentes estudiantiles ante la situación sanitaria actual

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Received: February 25th, 2021

Accepted: April 05th, 2021

Published: January 05th, 2022

Cite as:

Campos-Sánchez CM. Universidades del Ministerio de Salud Pública y la formación de dirigentes estudiantiles ante la situación sanitaria actual. 16 de Abril [Internet]. 2022 [citado: fecha de acceso]; 61(283):e1139. Disponible en: http://www.rev16deabrild.sld.cu/index.php/16_04/article/view/1139

Conflict of interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

Dear Editor:
In the city of Wuhan (China) the first cases of COVID-19 were known in December 2019 and on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it as a pandemic. In addition to its high morbidity and mortality, the repercussions in the economic and social sphere are being significant^{1,2,3}.

As of February 21, 2021, according to reports from Cubadebate, 111 747 462 cases and a lethality of 2,21 had been reported in the world. Latin America, in turn, reported 50 263 114 cas-

es, representing 44,97 % of the world's cases and a lethality of 2,36. Thanks to the measures taken by the national health system, Cuba maintains extremely low figures compared to other countries; 839 new cases were reported this day, for a total of 45 361 cases, only 1,98 % of the patients studied by PCR (2 281 712 samples)⁴.

The struggle of the Cuban revolution at all times has been led by young people and students. On December 20, 1922, the oldest organization in our country was founded; the University Student Federation (FEU in Spanish), formed by the young revolutionary Julio Antonio Mella. Although the tasks of the organization are no longer the same as those of 90 years ago, there is still one that has not changed, in its almost 100 years: to maintain the revolutionary convictions of Cuban students.

Given the current health problem, in which distance education arises as a new form of teaching in the universities of the Ministry of Public Health and it is practically impossible to carry out activities through which determine possible cadre policies for student leadership in new students, emanates the need to seek new alternatives to identify these students with innate leadership and with the ability to be the future leaders of our organization.

The profound changes in politics, economy, culture and education that have taken place in Cuba from January 1959 to the present, as well as the constant transformations in the practice of leadership in all sectors of Cuban society have had decisive implications in its leaders preparation.

In order to avoid a brake on the

search for new student leaders for the organization, a search was carried out in which several leadership scales were located, based on surveys that determine the intensity of the leader presented by our students. It is essential to highlight the tool presented by the psychologist Dueñas⁵ in her book *El libro de los test* (The Test Book), due to its easy implementation and the possibility of reaching as many students as possible.

The Villa Clara University of Medical Sciences' FEU has applied this survey in the "Capitán Roberto Fleites" polyclinic first-year students, obtaining satisfactory results, through which students with high managerial capacities were identified, who are followed by the student leaders of the area, with the aim of meeting the requirements to be part of the organization's cadre policy.

The formation of student leaders is not only a simple selection process in which the university student representation is chosen during an academic year, it involves a physical and moral structure in which student commitment is the basis to meet the needs of the university student masses.

It is therefore imperative to think about the value of training managers from universities, since student leadership in turn is the basis for training future professionals, managers of welfare centers and research centers of our ministry.

AUTHORSHIP

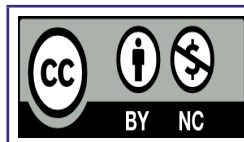
Carlos Miguel Campos-Sánchez: conceptualization, investigation, methodology, supervision, writing-original draft.

FUNDING

The author did not receive funding for this article.

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