

Tokyo University of Science, Yamaguchi (山陽小野田市立山口東京理科大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The University and the Graduate School's goals and goals of human resources development are clearly and concisely stipulated, shown in the University Regulations and Graduate School Regulations and so on, publicized on the University's website, and widely publicized in various printed material on-campus and outside of the University. The University's incorporated entity became a public university corporation in April 2016 after having been a junior college and subsequently a four-year university. The University is maintaining and strengthening its links with the Tokyo University of Science, and as a higher education institute established as a result of fervent demands from local government it places its individuality and distinctive quality as being local community contribution.

Its six-year medium-term plan is decided upon by Sanyo Onoda City, and the Public University Corporation has stipulated and made public the medium-term plan with which to reach these goals. The three policies of diploma policy, curriculum policy and admission policy are stipulated and publicized for each of the faculty and three departments (Department of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Electrical Engineering, and Department of Applied Chemistry), and for each Master's Program and Doctoral Program of the Graduate School. All of these contain content that reflects the University and Graduate School's goals and educational and research objectives.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

After becoming a public university the enrollment quotas-to-entrants ratio and applicants-to-successful applicants ratio have numbers of the University's enrollment quotas and the number of candidates sitting the entrance examination has improved, but in the 2015 academic year prior to becoming a public university there was an intake of students way beyond the enrollment quota. Subsequently, reforms to the entrance examination system were carried out, and the ratio of students to the University's total capacity is now kept at an appropriately balanced level.

Tuition courses are appropriately categorized in line with the curriculum policy, and there is innovation in the systematic educational curriculum design through the introduction of course numbering. In the area of career education, innovation is displayed in the way that the University endows students with a step-by-step awareness of career paths and sense of occupations, and there are several courses in place for career-building including internships.

The University effectively utilizes the reports on the results of educational effect measurements and tuition questionnaires in tuition reform. Mechanisms have been prepared to pick up students' opinions and wishes through the establishment of a Student Consultation Office, Health Office, and the posting of a psychiatric counsellor. In an attempt to enhance the volition of the faculty and vitalize the University's education and research, faculty achievement evaluations have been introduced, and through the stipulation of regulations and implementation standards improvements to the faculty's quality and ability are encouraged.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

The various regulations requisite to stringently comply with the relevant laws have been prepared, and appropriate university operation is being achieved in line with these regulations. The Public University Corporation does not have a Board of Directors but according to the specifications of Articles of Incorporation a Chair and President are separately posted, and they deliberate over important management matters relating to the medium-term and annual plans, budgets, account settlement and the enactment or abolition of regulations at the Management Council. Moreover, they also deliberate at the Education and Research Council regarding vital education and research issues such as medium-term and annual plans, faculty personnel affairs, and curriculum policy. As the person with final responsibility for education and learning, the President chairs the Education and Research Council and simultaneously participates in the Management Council as the Public University

Corporation's Vice-President, and a system for maintaining collaboration between the Public University Corporation and the University itself is in place.

The medium-term plan shows the University's budget, income and expenditure plan and funding plan among other financial plans, creating a mechanism that enables systematic financial operations. Pursuant to the Accounting Standards for Local Independent Administrative Agencies, regulations for accounting procedures have been drawn up, and these are appropriately followed. With regard to accounting audits too, a system has been established and is properly functioning in which both an auditor's audit and internal audit are prescribed.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

The University formulates an annual plan based on its medium-term plan, and the report on the business achievements thereof are subject to a third-party evaluation by the Public University Corporation Evaluation Committee. In addition, Self-Inspection and Evaluation Reports were made in the 2002 academic year by the Department of Applied Chemistry, in the 2005 academic year by the Department of Electrical Engineering, and in the 2012 academic year by the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Department of Electrical Engineering. These reports have been subject to accreditation by JABEE (the Japan Accreditation Board for Engineering Education).

The Administration Division of the Administration Department collectively manages all the entrance examination data and other data including that obtained from student lifestyle awareness questionnaires, compiles this data into facts and figures books, and shares them throughout the University. Data analysis is conducted by the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee and other committees and departments, who suggest actions plans regarding issues and measures for the next academic year to the President, and evidence-based self-inspection and evaluation, and reforms are implemented.

A PDCA cycle is being achieved through an action plan that makes the annual plan's implementation feasible, the state of its execution is regularly checked and reported upon, and with the use of a balanced scorecard the action plan evaluation is tied in with improvements for the subsequent academic year.

In summary, in line with the University's goals, the education and operation systems and faculty and staff organization have been developed and are operating appropriately and in compliance with the relevant laws. Having become a public university it has seen an improvement in enrollment quotas-to-entrants ratios, and with progress being made in the preparations for the opening of the Department of Pharmacy and so on, attempts to bolster educational and research functions are being made. An operations system centering on the President is in place, and the University is attempting to make reforms and qualitative improvements through a PDCA cycle.

Note that with regard to the University's unique initiatives regarding its mission and goals, the general comments on "Standard A. Local community contribution" should be referred to.