

Naragakuen University (奈良学園大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The University cites its founding principle and clearly stipulates its mission as being the development of human resources with practical ability and practical skills. After the faculties and departments were restructured in the 2014 academic year a new learning environment was developed and has been subsequently maintained. The University's incorporated entity has set up the Management Reform Plan Promotion Council, which has formulated a Management Reform Plan as a detailed medium-to-long-term plan, and the state of reform is reported to both MEXT and the Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan. The University strictly adheres to the School Education Act and other relevant laws, its mission and goals are specifically detailed in each faculty's three policies of diploma policy, curriculum policy and admission policy, and a research and educational organization is in place revolving around individual guidance aimed at the acquisition of qualifications. Specifically, the University has established its educational and research organization centering on the Council, and cites the development of human resources, who learn through practical training and equipped with harmonious human nature and professionalism, The University is appropriately operated in line with the Standards for Establishment of Universities.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

In line with a clearly stipulated and publicized admission policy, selection standards are set and a wide variety of students are admitted, and the state of enrollment quotas is good.

The educational curriculum attempts to systemize the practical courses, and the faculty and staff collaborate to arrange a system in which the content of individual guidance is shared between them. In tuition, initiatives are pursued in the use of tablet terminals and watching recorded tuition content, and innovative measures such as the establishment of "Nara learning" making the best of local features are taken. A system is in place for supporting students towards acquiring qualifications has been developed including a "teacher cram school," "naragaku GT," "teacher seminars" "state examination preparation lectures," and "mandatory question preparation lectures." Initiatives to improve the quality of education include the use of an opinions box to ascertain students' wishes, the creation of target management sheets by faculty and staff to establish a self-management system, tuition observation, open classes and the holding of study groups, through all of which attempts to share information on a cross-university basis are made. In addition, a scholarship system and mental and physical health counselling provided by specialist counsellors are available, and a support system encompassing all aspects of student life is maintained.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors, Board of Councilors, Executive Committee, as well as the School Affairs Council, in which a standing auditor and Director of Audit Office additionally participate are held, and the various laws are adhered to. Educational information and financial information are appropriately publicized and governance functioning.

As executive bodies, the Board of Councilors, Faculty Council, Planning and Operations Council and various committees have been established, and the authorities and responsibilities dealing with university operation are clear and organized collaboration is being achieved.

The University's regulations clearly state the role of the President, a mechanism for the exercising of the President's leadership is in place, and efforts are made to ensure collaborative administration operations between faculty and staff.

Staff Development (SD) training within the University, and participation in external training groups is encouraged, and the University is striving to improve its staff's execution of business.

With regards to the University's financial situation, there is a need for it to improve its fiscal health, and undertake organizational reform activities. Appropriate accounting audits are held with regards to accounting and business audits.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

With respect to self-inspection and evaluation, a Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee has been established and a system for continuously conducting self-inspection and evaluation according to annual plans is in place. The self-inspection and evaluation of the relevant departments incorporates mid-term inspections, and the combined results are compiled in a business activity report at the end of the academic year. This report is presented at the Board of Directors after approval is given by the Board of Councilors, and a PDCA cycle has been created that will lead to reforms and improvements across the University and its education and research.

In summary, the University cites the development of human resources equipped with practical ability and skills as its founding principle, has decided to restructure its faculties and departments, passed down its founding purposes and prepared a new learning environment for the attainment of its mission and educational objectives. The University is approaching the fourth academic year after the first intake of students following the reforms of the institutions, the year in which they will soon have graduated. It is to be hoped that the University will continue to make unstinting efforts towards reform while maintaining communication on-campus and outside of the University, as it works towards achieving fiscal stability in the future.

Note that with regard to the University's unique initiatives regarding its mission and goals, the general comments on "Standard A. Volunteer activity," "Standard B. Social collaboration," and "Standard C. International interaction" should be referred to.