

Fukushima College (福島学院大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The mission and goals of the University are clearly shown in the University Regulations, and in line with its founding principles of “sincerity is everything above all,” the University conducts education and research into specialized disciplines, and aims to contribute to the local community.

The University organization has been reviewed in the wake of the drop in students following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Fukushima nuclear disaster, and restructuring the organization to meet changes in society is under deliberation.

The faculties and departments each have their own three policies of diploma policy, curriculum policy and admission policy, and attempts to make them known are made both on-campus and outside of the University through student application guidelines, student hand books and its website. After the establishment of the Department of Welfare and Psychology, Faculty of Welfare, in order to respond to contemporary needs, a Department of Child Science was added to the faculty’s lineup, and in this and other ways the educational and research organization acts consistently with the mission, goals and educational objectives.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

With regard to student admission, in addition to academic ability tests all the entrance examinations include interviews with prospective students, where comprehensive decisions are made as to whether or not candidates fit in with the University’s admission policy.

In order to pursue improvements in tuition methods Faculty Tuition Implementation Regulations have been established, and Faculty Development (FD) training is also implemented towards this goal. Faculty and staff participate in various university committees, and assistance for students is carried out through collaboration between faculty and staff.

A Career Support Office has been established, providing a consultation and advice system for the topics of job placement and career paths.

The extent to which educational objectives are being obtained is ascertained by the state of qualifications obtained and surveys into the circumstances of students’ after graduation and so on compiled by each department’s Board of Councilors. With regard to faculty evaluations, in line with the results of student questionnaires the points for improvement are shared and stated in the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Report, thereby linking them with the reform of tuition. Earthquake resistance reinforcement work on the school buildings has been completed, and disaster drills are conducted twice a year.

It should be noted that the as the enrollment quotas for the Department of Welfare and Psychology, Faculty of Welfare are not being met it is to be hoped that appropriate quota management is carried out.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

Pursuant to its articles of endowment the University has established a Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Board of Councilors, and strives to operate the business of the University's incorporated entity in an appropriate manner. The directors and auditors have been suitably elected in line with the articles of endowment, the Board of Directors is well-attended, and functions and is operated properly.

The Faculty Council responds to the enquiries of the President, and expresses its opinions about university entrance, certifying graduation, awarding degrees and so on. The President acts upon listening to these opinions, and a system is in place that enables the President to exercise leadership appropriately.

The University regularly holds Staff Development (SD) training groups, encourages the participation of staff in extramural training, and strives to improve staff skills.

As of the 2016 academic year effective cuts in expenditure helped the University to improve its fiscal balance, and in order to maintain this trend a highly detailed income and expenditure plan

running up to the academic year 2030 has been incorporated into the medium-term plan of the University's incorporated entity. The University's financial statements, inventory of assets and so on undergo proper audits by auditors and CPAs, and have been confirmed as satisfactory.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

In order to attain the University's mission and goals and in line with the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Regulations, a Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee composed of the Chair of the Board of Directors, President and managerial staff from the Secretariat has been established. The Committee sets the items for the University's own self-evaluation, and conducts self-inspections and evaluations.

The Self-Inspection and Evaluation Report is distributed to the faculty and staff on an annual basis, and information shared throughout the University. In addition, the report has been made public on the University website since the 2011 academic year.

The medium-term plan that was launched in the 2016 academic year was drawn up on the basis of the three policies. The extent to which its various measures are being attained was checked during the 2017 academic year, and by implementing countermeasures the University is striving to establish a PDCA cycle.

In summary, meticulous guidance and support is provided to each and every student in line with the University's individual and distinctive quality of being a small-college-small-class institution. The faculty seeks to raise quality according to the Tuition Implementation Regulations, while the Student Tuition Regulations provide for strict guidance pertaining to the manners of those students learning. It is to be hoped that by the further permeation of the above initiatives number of student admissions will recover from the adverse legacy of the Fukushima nuclear disaster, and that the University will continue to develop as an individualistic seat of learning.

Note that with regard to the University's unique initiatives regarding its mission and goals, the general comments on "Standard A. Community contribution," and "Standard B. Embodiment of founding principles" should be referred to.