

LEC Graduate University (LEC 東京リーガルマインド大学院大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The University's mission and goals are rooted in its basic principles, and the University's mission and goals—characteristic of a graduate school for accounting professionals— have been set based on the University's basic mission. Educational objectives are concretely and clearly prescribed in simple language in a manner embodying the mission and goals individually.

The University's individuality and distinctive quality are stipulated within the University's mission, goals and educational objectives and are in compliance with laws and ordinances; they are also clearly prescribed in the University Regulations. Furthermore, as a means of addressing various changes, the University places strong emphasis on fulfilling its function as a recurrent education institution for working members of society who are broadly involved in accounting work, responding appropriately to changes in social conditions.

The University's mission, goals and educational objectives are made known both on-campus and outside of the University through campus bulletins and are appropriately reflected in the University's medium-term business plan and three policies of diploma policy, curriculum policy and admission policy. The University has also established the educational and research organization necessary for achieving the mission, goals and educational objectives.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

The University's admission policy has been clearly prescribed and entrant selection is carried out under an appropriate system in accordance with the admission policy. The curriculum policy has been clearly stipulated based on the University's educational objectives, and a systematic educational curriculum conscious of "Integration of Academic and Practical" is being organized for the University's overall educational curriculum. In addition, a diploma policy has been formulated based on the educational objectives and performance evaluation standards have been prescribed in the University Regulations, with the University introducing mechanisms for strictly conducting performance evaluations. Career support systems, such as the "Enrolled Student Extracurricular Follow-up System" and the "Graduated Student Career Support System", have been established. With regard to student services, facilities to be used for mutual exchange and independent activities have been established, and a system has been created for not only provided meticulous support but also gathering opinions from students.

With regard to faculty allocation, the necessary full-time faculty have been allocated and the number of faculty and practitioner faculty prescribed under the Standards for Establishment of Universities and other relevant laws/ordinances has been secured.

Mechanisms (the Faculty Development (FD) system) for improving the tuition content and methods and enhancing the quality and ability of faculty have been created. In addition, the necessary campus grounds, buildings, and other facilities/equipment to enable the achievement of educational objectives have generally been provided appropriately in accordance with scale and educational form.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

The University has established a Code of Conduct in order to maintain management discipline and integrity and clearly demonstrate this both on-campus and outside of the University, and is making continuous efforts to realize the mission and goals it has set for itself. With regard to the public disclosure of educational information and financial information, this information is posted on the University website and made widely known.

The University has established a School Management Committee as the highest decision-making organ for school management. This committee is equivalent to the Board of Directors for an incorporated educational institution and deliberates and makes decisions on important items regarding the University's management and administration.

Since the University's opening, the President of the school provider company has been serving as

the University President, with the final decision-making for the education and learning and the management being consistent as mutual communication is carried out smoothly.

However, although the University has adopted a system of governance equivalent to that of an incorporated educational institution, due to factors such as auditors not carrying out audits for the University division sufficiently, no internal audits being carried out in recent years, and the Board of Councilors not functioning, it is difficult to say that governance through mutual checks by administrative organs is functioning appropriately, and there is a strong need for reform.

In order to realize the University's mission and goals, starting in the 2010 academic year, a medium-term business plan has been formulated every three years, and university operations are carried out based on the basic policies stipulated in these plans, with the University's income and expenditure balance moving into the black in the 2015 academic year. Accounting audits are carried out in accordance with the Companies Act, with the school provider company playing the role of auditor.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

With regard to self-inspection and evaluation activities, the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee has been organized based on the "Regulations Related to LEC Graduate University Self-Inspection and Evaluation" and operates independently and autonomously. Self-inspections and evaluations are carried out in conjunction with two evaluations and accreditations that are conducted alternately.

The Self-Inspection and Evaluation Report is posted on the University website, simultaneously making it available to the general public and sharing it within the University, and it can be said that self-inspection and evaluation results are reflected in the improvement and enhancement of university operations.

Staff are responsible for gathering data and information regarding the University's current situation, and the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee conducted analyses and evaluations based on the evidence provided by these. However, because answers that differed from the truth was given for certain written questions in the most recently conducted evaluation and accreditation, there is a strong need for a checking system for self-inspection and evaluation as well as across-the-board governance.

In summary, based on its basic principles, the University utilizes its characteristics as a small-scale graduate school specializing in accounting with a focus on as recurrent education for working members of society, and its meticulous system for instruction and guidance, as well as its creative initiatives such as implementing joint lectures conducted by researchers and practitioners, can be highly appraised. However, there are urgent issues with the functionality of the University's governance, such as auditors not conducting audits sufficiently, and there is a need for reform of the incorporated educational institution as a whole. Furthermore, with regard to the issue of answers differing from the truth being given to written questions, due to the nature of the question content (questions regarding auditing work) and importance as well as the process of answering questions, it must be said that this is an action causing the loss of integrity with regard to evaluations, and there is a strong need for measures to ensure there is no reoccurrence.

Note that with regard to the University's unique initiatives regarding its mission and goals, the general comments on "Standard A. Educational activities integrating academic and practical" should be referred to.