

MEIKAI UNIVERSITY (明海大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The University's mission and goals are clearly stated as "Fostering graduates of talent and ability, who are well educated, creative, rational, and capable of being active in the international community," and together with its educational objectives have been succinctly stated in writing. The University's individuality and distinctive quality are clearly stated as being to eagerly promote internationalization and social contributions to foster sophisticated professionals and people in a wide range of occupations, and it adapts where necessary to changes in social circumstances.

The mission and goals stipulated in the University Regulations are made widely known to faculty and staff, and in addition to obtaining the understanding and support of executives, faculty and staff for the mission, goals and educational objectives, they are publicized on the University website etc. both internally and externally, and are reflected in both the mid-term plan and the annually formulated business plan. Furthermore, the mission, goals and educational objectives are reflected in the three policies (diploma, curriculum and admission policies) stipulated for each faculty, school, department and graduate school, and an educational and research organization along with the hospitals, centers, research center etc. to back it up all maintain consistency with the mission, goals and educational objectives.

Standard 2. Students

The admission policy is published and made widely known externally through the entrance exam guidelines, the University website etc., and the entrance exam is fairly and appropriately conducted centering on the Admission Center Committee. As a whole the University is securing an appropriate number of students. Furthermore, a support system for learning and class instruction is in place through collaboration between faculty and staff, graduate students are used as TAs (teaching assistants), and with guardians able to check the state of the students' academic performance and attendance via a web portal system the University is striving to prevent students from dropping out. Career Planning I is set as a mandatory course, and students are furnished with career guidance within and outside of curricula through collaboration with the Career Support Center.

The organization for student services and student personnel services provide the necessary assistance, and the Health Administration Center offers responses to all sorts of consultation and physical and mental health support. The campuses, buildings, athletic grounds etc. are appropriately maintained and used, and with the establishment of the Meikai Learning Commons (MLC) active learning by students is supported. Consideration is paid to educational effectiveness through small class size lectures or multiple classes for courses in each department, the varied opinions and requests of students are ascertained, analyzed and the results of these reviews put to use.

Standard 3. Educational Curriculum

The diploma policy is published in course completion manuals, student handbooks, the website etc., in addition to which standards for awarding credits, promotion to the next school year, certifying graduation and completion have been formulated and are stringently applied. In addition, as well as making the curriculum policy widely known a curriculum map has been created and mutual consistency with the diploma policy clarified. Liberal arts education at the Urayasu Campus is developed on an organized basis by the Integrated Education Center and Plurilingual and Pluricultural (P & P) Education Center, while on the Sakado Campus the three liberal arts education fields of human science, natural science and communications are taught.

In addition, the Faculty Development Committee and Educational Support Center strive to develop diverse educational programs and systems. The University participates in the FD Network Tsubasa, and through the annual implementation of the Questionnaire on Learning Outcomes etc. ascertains the state of students' learning. An assessment policy has been formulated and students' learning outcomes are measured, ascertained and reviewed.

Good points

- A student scholarship overseas training dispatch system, in which the University funds all the expenses of overseas training, has been established for all the faculties and schools, and the way that the University strives to cultivate internationalism is worthy of merit.
- In line with the MEIKAI UNIVERSITY Urayasu Campus Inquiry-based Exploration Activity Support Regulations, the University pays the expenses for students' experience-based activities in actual society, and the University's promotion of active learning merits evaluation.

Standard 4. Faculty and Staff

The President's duties and authorities are clearly stipulated, there is a support system consisting of three Vice Presidents, and based on consideration to the appropriate decentralization of authorities and clear definition of responsibilities, the President's appropriate leadership in the University's decision-making and education and learning management has been established and is being exercised. The duties of each division of the administrative organization are stipulated under the Secretary General and by making official competence clear an organized administrative system has been created for the efficient execution of work, and education and learning management functions are being exercised.

Through the organized implementation of FD (Faculty Development) and biannual evaluations of faculty, the professional ability requisite for the autonomous education and research activities of faculty is maintained and linked in with improvements. In addition, with the organizational participation of the Faculty Development Committee and relevant administrative divisions in the implementation of student class evaluation questionnaires a PDCA cycle has been built. The University also implements personnel evaluations and organized initiatives aimed at improving staff quality and ability including SD (Staff Development). The requisite facilities and equipment, and a comfortable research environment are managed and run, and having clarified the responsibilities and management system for research activities the essential regulations and guidelines have been

stipulated such as the regulations concerning research ethics. Regulations and standards have been stipulated for the allotment of resources from the University's assets, and in addition to fixed allocations the University conducts competitive funding for the vitalization of research activities, and also seeks to obtain external funding.

Good points

- The University has established the only Dental Forensics Center in Saitama Prefecture, and the fact that it is providing a social contribution from a perspective different to ordinary dental clinics merits high evaluation.
- The University has established the Real Estate Research Center and Institute for Hospitality & Tourism Research, and the way that they are conducting research activities through industry-academia collaborations is worthy of evaluation.

Standard 5. Management, Administration and Finance

The University's management is appropriately conducted in accordance with the Incorporated Educational Institution MEIKAI UNIVERSITY Article of Endowment etc., and it strives to observe laws and regulations, respond to whistleblowing, maintain ethics among staff in their duties, and sustain management discipline and integrity. A business plan is formulated each academic year based on the mid-term plan, at the end of the academic year in question a business report is compiled, and continuous efforts are made to achieve the University's mission and goals. Various regulations are in place for consideration towards environmental conservation, human rights and security, and concrete countermeasures are made.

The Board of Directors, which is the ultimate decision-making body, is in principle convened once a month, a system is in place for decision-making aimed at achieving mission and goals, and this system is functioning. The decision-making of each administrative organization of the University and its incorporated entity is smoothly conducted, the Basic Educational Issues Council is convened each month, and communication and collaboration between the University's incorporated entity and the education and learning organization is appropriately conducted. Two auditors are elected to fill the quota, and the auditors attend all the Board of Directors and Board of Councilors meetings, and conduct the auditing of business operations and accounting procedures. Furthermore, the advice of the Board of Councilors is solicited regarding important matters, and budgets are formulated according to a business plan based on mutual checks between the administrative organizations of the University and its incorporated entity. Education and research activities are maintained based on appropriate financial operations that are in line with the mid- and long-term plan, and a healthy fiscal balance and stable financial base are maintained through profitable business and the enthusiastic obtaining of external funding. Accounting is conducted in line with laws and regulations and the University's own regulations, appropriately handled with an emphasis on compliance, and a three-type audit integrated system consisting of auditors, internal auditors (Head of Audit and Evaluation Office) and independent auditors, under which stringent auditing takes place.

Standard 6. Internal Quality Assurance

The University has stipulated the MEIKAI UNIVERSITY Self-Inspection and Evaluation Regulations, and in addition to Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee under the President, and the Campus Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committees on both campuses, the Basic Educational Issues Council and General Council have been established and a system regarding internal quality assurance is in place. The Basic Educational Issues Council in particular is contributing to improved efficacy of internal quality assurance under the shared awareness of the University's incorporated entity and the education and learning organization.

The results of discussions on self-inspections and evaluations as well as improvement measures of each faculty, school and department are shared across the entire university, based on the annually updated "Evidence: Data" Self-Inspection and Evaluation Report is created, and independent and autonomous self-inspections and evaluations are thus implemented for the sake of internal quality assurance. With regards to these results, by publishing the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Report on the University website attempts are made to enable the on-campus sharing of information by the faculty and staff, in addition to making it available to the public. Furthermore, in line with University regulations an IR Promotion Office has been established, which collects, investigates and analyzes information on education and research activities, students and education and learning.

In response to the points requiring improvements indicated in the academic year 2012 evaluation and accreditation results, yearly enrollment quotas for relevant faculties and departments have been altered to maintain a student quota in line with total capacity, a new School of Health Sciences has been established and continuous initiatives for improvements to university operation are underway. Furthermore, in conjunction with cross-university inspections and evaluations, the University is striving towards improvements through inspections and evaluations that are made of individual issues at both the Urayasu and Sakado campuses, and a PDCA cycle mechanism has been established for the faculties, schools, departments, graduate school and the University in its entirety to enable internal quality assurance.

In summary, the University has achieved excellent results in the fostering of dentists at the School of Dentistry ever since taking over from its predecessor body, the Josai Dental University, in addition to which it is the only university in Japan with a Department of Real Estate Sciences, boasts a variety of faculties, schools and departments, and continues to provide education and research to achieve its educational objective of fostering sophisticated professionals and people in a wide range of occupations. In addition, citing an ethos of pursuing an internationalized vision, it is supporting globalization under a philosophy of multilingualism and multiculturalism, and eagerly contributing to society through the educational practices of each faculty, school and department. Making the most of the characteristics of the two locations where its campuses are situated, it is displaying a presence as a seat of knowledge in both communities, and it is to be hoped that it will continue to make further progress and produce a variety of human resources.

Note that with regard to the University's unique standards, the general comments on "Standard A. Promotion of lifelong learning for dentists" and "Standard B. Collaboration and support projects for local primary and secondary educational institutions (Community & School Education Support Center)" should be referred to.

It should be noted that the University has cited the following remarks.

1. The School of Dentistry's student exchange project with overseas partnership universities
2. Initiatives to improve Japanese language proficiency of international students
3. Creation of a center for lifelong learning in the local community (open college)