

## Yasuda Women's College (安田女子短期大学)

### Evaluation summary

#### **Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.**

In line with the College's founding principle of a "Tender yet firm spirit," the College Regulations clearly stipulate the educational objectives as "aiming to teach women a wide range of knowledge, seek the formation of cultivated characters, instruct and research professional arts and techniques on a deep level, and foster promising human resources who will contribute to improving human culture," and the educational system emphasizes moral education and practical social skills. The President formulates a mid- and long-term plan based on the founding principles, and this is made widely known to the faculty through the General Affairs Committee, College Operation Council and College Faculty Council. The three policies (diploma, curriculum and admission policies) reflect the College's educational objectives, which are based on the founding principles. The College as a whole conducts reorganization to transfer some of its departments to the jointly established university and makes it adapt to changes in the social environment through reviews etc. of learning content. With regard to education and research activities, after review by the various committees the President makes decisions on measures based on the discussions of the General Affairs Committee etc., and the educational and research organization of the departments requisite to attain educational objectives have been established and are managed.

#### **Standard 2. Students**

An admission policy based on the founding principles has been formulated and is made widely known through various media such as the College website. The student quota is appropriately filled.

Through a tutor system based on the Mahoroba Liberal Arts Seminars the state of learning is effectively ascertained. With organizational support provided by the Student Support Center and various committees, and personal assistance by teaching associates etc., an implementing system has been properly established and operated for learning and class instruction support for students through collaboration between faculty and staff. The tutors work in close collaboration with the Career Guidance Division and the Employment Instruction Committee providing instruction and support on finding employment, and support system for career education and a consultative and advisory system regarding employment and further education is in place and operating. The campus and its buildings have been adequately prepared, barrier-free access and access between college buildings are also available, and the College has a comfortable learning environment.

#### Good points

- Consideration is paid to school life and learning in the College's cafeteria, which serves not only lunch but also breakfast and dinner, with regard to breakfast in particular, since June 2019 it has been provided free of charge on a permanent basis during semesters, and the support provided for a healthy life style is worthy of evaluation.

- An autonomous study environment suited to the various purposes of students has been prepared in the No. 1 Building, with a learning commons and academic support area that enable group learning, presentations, workshops etc., and the way that the College seeks to improve usage rates of these facilities merits high evaluation.

### **Standard 3. Educational Curriculum**

A diploma policy in line with the educational objectives has been clearly stipulated, as have appropriate standards for awarding credits etc. according to the diploma policy, and they are in operation. The curriculum policy has been stipulated according to the founding principles and the diploma policy, a curriculum map showing the relevance of each course to the diploma policy has been created, and consistency between the curriculum policy and the diploma policy is maintained. All these policies are made public on the College website. The educational curriculum has been systematically arranged in line with the curriculum policy, and a syllabus has also been appropriately prepared. With regards to liberal arts education, in addition to study in various fields extra-curricular practical liberal arts education is also implemented.

With regard to the inspection of learning outcomes, in response to inspections of the results of class evaluation questionnaires, the FD Committee, Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee etc. adjust and develop teaching methods, and there is an organizational system for pursuing improvements in educational content and methods.

Good point

- As well as positioning the Mahoroba Liberal Arts Seminar I and Mahoroba Liberal Arts Seminar II as compulsory courses, the implementation of extra-curricular activities such as the Freshman Reception Orientation Seminar, Department of Early Childhood Education Exhibition and Yasuda Kids' Theater and the implementation of various opportunities for cultivating the liberal arts are all worthy of evaluation.

### **Standard 4. Faculty and Staff**

With regard to important matters pertaining to education and learning three Assistants to the President are appointed under the President, support for the President's decision-making is conducted through discussions held by the Planning Division and General Affairs Committee, and the appropriate exercising of leadership by the President is ensured. The position and the roles of the College Faculty Council and various councils and committees are stipulated in regulations, and the authorities for the College's decision-making are appropriately decentralized, and responsibilities clearly defined. The faculty is appropriately posted in line with the Standards for Establishment of Junior College's and educational objectives, the recruitment, promotion etc. of faculty is stipulated in various regulations, and suitably managed. An evaluation system has been established with the purpose of vitalizing the organization and fostering administrative staff and human resources development is enthusiastically pursued, in addition to which a variety of SD (Staff Development) initiatives are conducted through various training opportunities and online education systems. In

order to encourage research activities a comfortable research environment is in place, regulations on research ethics have been stipulated and are appropriately applied. Eager research support is provided through a variety of research funding systems.

Good point

- The College's introduction of a development and evaluation system for administrative staff and the way that it is striving to carefully nurture human resources are worthy of merit.

### **Standard 5. Management, Administration and Finance**

In accordance with the Yasuda Educational Foundation Articles of Endowment the Board of Directors regularly discuss important matters relating to management, while the Board of Councilors is appropriately functioning as an advisory body. The auditors attend the Board of Directors and Board of Councilors meetings, and conduct operational audits and accounting audits in an appropriate manner. A crisis management system has been prepared, and suitable consideration is paid to the environment and human rights. The Yasuda Gakuen Operational Council has been established, and ongoing efforts are being made to achieve missions and goals, such as the regular sharing of information on operation and administration between the College and other affiliated schools, and convening of discussions. Lunch meetings are held each week, attended by the Chair of the Board of Directors, the Yasuda Gakuen General Manager, President etc., who take part in timely exchanges of information and opinions, and mutual checks between the College and its incorporated entity are functioning. Matter for review are made clear, a 10-year Long-term Fiscal Plan has been formulated, and appropriate financial operations in line with the mid- and long-term plan are established.

### **Standard 6. Internal Quality Assurance**

In line with the College Regulations, the combined Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee has been established under the President in conjunction with the jointly established university, and the President, Planning Division, FD Committee and other related divisions closely collaborate in independent self-inspections and evaluations. In the academic year 2014 the College established its Basic Policies on Inspections and Evaluations, and in line with these self-inspection and evaluation are conducted through business reports, the reports of each committee, annual reports of departments etc. The implementation and collection of various surveys for the sake of inspections and analysis of data are conducted by the persons in charge of IR (Institutional Research) in the Planning Division. The results of evaluations are, after review by the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee, put to use in the review and implementation of improvement measures by the FD Committee and other councils, and through this a system for surveys and data collection to ascertain the current state is prepared. The Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee etc. conduct internal quality assurance based on the three policies, and the results are put to use according to the mid- and long-term plan to seek improvements to the management of the College, and the internal quality assurance mechanism is more or less functioning.

In summary, the College has for a long time persisted with its founding principle of “Tender yet firm spirit” as its educational objectives, and as a women’s junior college that is familiar to local people established an educational system with clear educational objectives, and is appropriately conducting learning and class instruction support and appropriate support for student life. Students are steadily acquired and the College’s financial base is sound. Management and administration are appropriately run. It is to be hoped that by enthusiastically and autonomously making a PDCA cycle function the further improvement and development of the attractiveness of the College will also help the fostering of more sophisticated childcare professionals, as well as the development of the regional childcare-related businesses.

Note that with regard to the College’s unique standards, the general comments on “Standard A. Social and community contribution” should be referred to.

It should be noted that the College has cited the following remark.

1. Orientation Seminar, a traditional event of the Yasuda Women’s College.