

OSAKA SHOIN WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY (大阪樟蔭女子大学)

Evaluation summary

“Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.”

The institution clearly defined the mission and goal of the university (including graduate schools) in Articles 1 and 2 of the school rules based on its school philosophy. Also, it clearly and specifically shown the educational objectives for each faculty, department and graduate school department. The institution's mission, goal and educational objectives are stated plainly and concisely in its school catalogue, university brochure, student handbook, study guide, website, etc. In order to respond to social situations, the institution decided to review and examine its mission, goal and educational objectives at the principal office meeting and the university conference held at the beginning of the new fiscal year. From a long term perspective, it issued its “Mid- and Long-term Plan for the Second Phase”, and a plan to continue consideration of various events to celebrate the “100th Anniversary of Shoin Gakuen's Foundation”. The institution's mission and goal were discussed in various meetings and decided by the board of directors, and this process was appreciated and accepted by teachers, staff and officers. For the purpose of achieving the mission and objectives, etc., it has three faculties and one graduate school department as an educational research organization, and has maintained compatibility with them.

“Standard 2. Learning and Teaching”

The institution has defined its admission policy, according to the educational objectives of each faculty, department, and graduate school, based on which entrants were selected in many different ways. It also clearly defined its curriculum policy, based on which the educational curriculum was designed appropriately. In terms of support for learning, class lessons, etc., adequate learning and class instructions were provided to individual students under an advisor system, and teaching assistants (TA) and learning assistants (LA) were duly appointed. The institution correctly implemented the processes of accreditation, promotion, and graduation/completion certification based on its diploma policy. For career support, it established an organizational support system to provide detailed assistance. For evaluation of the achievement of educational objectives, it established the “achievement self-evaluation system” on the internal portal site. It also built a framework for student services, which are mainly provided by the Student Support Division, and the framework is working smoothly. Teachers were duly appointed, and various activities for faculty development (FD) were carried out with the aim of enhancing the teacher qualifications. The institution made improvements to the school premises, school building, equipment and fixtures, practical training facilities, and library, which have been maintained and operated appropriately.

“Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance”

According to the purpose of founding incorporated school institutions, the institution established its management and administration system and rules/regulations in compliance with laws, including the School Education Act, and publicized educational and financial information through its website or by other means. Its articles of endowment stipulate that the board of directors is the highest

decision-making body, which has ensured that board members/auditors are duly appointed and meetings of the board of directors are properly organized. The principal has played a central role as a chairperson of various meetings, except for the faculty meeting, sufficiently demonstrating leadership as a person responsible for teaching as well as execution of operations. The principal office meeting, the deans and directors meeting, and the university conference were attended by officers from the governing body with the aim of facilitating the decision-making process between the governing body and the school organization. In accordance with the administrative organization rules, the institution ensured proper decentralization of authority and clarification of responsibilities, and built a structure for execution of operations. Furthermore, it made efforts to enhance the qualifications and abilities of personnel. As for the financial base, the institution promoted financial improvement, by preparing mid- and long-term plans, and setting numerical targets for the number of students and financial indicators. Accounting was done correctly in accordance with the relevant standards and rules.

“Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation”

The institution stated implementation of self-inspection and evaluation and the publication of their results in its school rules, and established a self-inspection and evaluation committee as a permanent committee in 2001, since when the committee has published a report once every five years. In the intervals between publications, the institution confirmed the “improvement measures and set goals” that respective departments have decided in response to “problems and issues identified by self-inspections”, which had been pointed out in their “self-inspection and evaluation reports”, and the content and progress of their efforts, and conducted interim evaluation based on the results. The self-inspection and evaluation reports were provided to all teachers and staff members in the form of a booklet or electronic medium in order to keep everyone informed about them. Outside of the university, the above reports were publicized through the website or by other means. The institution incorporated self-inspection and evaluation activities into the PDCA cycle, using their reports for preparation of mid- and long-term plans and project plans for each fiscal year.

To sum up, the institution appears to have steadily promoted education based on its school philosophy as well as its mission and goals. In terms of learning and teaching, it has taken its inventive approach to take care of each and every student by creating a teacher organization and educational environment, and establishing an advisor system. As for management/administration and finance, the institution is expected to take measures to formulate the right budget, and to make financial improvement during the process of preparing the “Mid- and Long-term Plan for the Second Phase”. It duly implemented self-inspections and evaluations, and it is expected that such activities will achieve better results in the future.

For details about the “Standard A. Collaboration with Local Communities”, which is set forth as the institution’s unique initiative based on its mission and goal, please refer to the general remarks on the standard.