

## Kobe International University (神戸国際大学)

### Evaluation summary

#### “Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.”

The institution has clearly stated that its mission and objectives are to “facilitate personality development of all students from a holistic perspective based on the spirit of Christianity, and to explore and teach the theory and practice of economic science and rehabilitation science in accordance with the Fundamental Act of Education and the School Education Act”. Its originality and features were apparent in small-group practice-based education. The institution’s mission, goals and objectives ensured compliance with its education and research structure consisting of the Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Rehabilitation, and have been publicized internally and externally in a variety of ways and on a variety of occasions.

#### “Standard 2. Learning and Teaching”

The institution has created its admission policy according to its school philosophy and educational concept, and implemented entrance examinations to accept students with qualities that it expects under an appropriate system. It systematically formulated an educational curriculum based on its curriculum policy, and devised and developed teaching methods according to the characteristics of each class subject. It has ensured strict compliance with the criteria for accreditation, promotion and graduation certification as specified by the school rules. There are various kinds of learning support systems with collaboration between teachers and other school staff, including an “Oritor System”, as well as a career support system built based in the career center. In order to grasp and evaluate the achievement of educational objectives, class evaluation questionnaires and various surveys were conducted periodically, and their results were reviewed mainly by the Faculty Development (FD) Committee and the Education Development Center. In addition, the institution introduced unique scholarship and honor student systems to help students have a stable school life, and established a structure for cooperation between teachers and other school staff of various sections, including the Health Center/School Affairs Section/International Exchange Section of the Academic Affairs Center, and the Career Center. It has developed an appropriate educational curriculum, and maintained and appointed an adequate number of teachers to achieve its educational objectives. It has also prepared a learning environment with enriched facilities, including the premises and school buildings, which exceed the university establishment standards.

#### “Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance”

The institution has maintained management discipline and integrity in an appropriate manner based on the rules, and continued efforts to achieve its mission and objectives by formulating business plans and establishing a PDCA cycle. It has also properly publicized educational and financial information through the website and by other means. The board of directors, which was appropriately operated based on the rules, made strategic decisions to achieve its mission and objectives. For execution of daily operations, a standing board committee was established to ensure

its functional operational structure. The duties and authority of the principal were clearly specified in the school rules. The institution built a system to assist the principal by appointing the deputy principal, and establishing a deans' meeting and a division heads meeting, and this system has functioned effectively. In addition, it promoted smooth communication and decision-making between the governing body and school organization by establishing a "University Planning and Management Council". The council helped to ensure collaboration between the corporate auditor, auditing firm, and internal auditor, resulting in effective governance through mutual monitoring between management and administration organizations. For the organization of clerical work, the institution maintained its organizational structure and staff deployment, taking into account proper power sharing and clarification of responsibilities. Since FY 2014, according to a new mid-term financial plan, the institution strived to maintain financial management by keeping the budget ceiling for a single fiscal year, resulting in improvement of both the imputed income and expenditure balance, and the consumption income and expenditure balance. Accounting procedures were properly implemented in accordance with the Accounting Standards for School Corporation and the "School Corporation Yashiro Gakuin Accounting Regulations". This means that the above threefold auditing system has functioned effectively in financial auditing.

#### "Standard 4. Self-inspection and Evaluation"

The institution drew up the "Kobe International University Self-inspection and Evaluation Committee Regulations", and the self-inspection and evaluation committee played a central role in performing inspections and evaluations based on well-defined evaluation criteria. It took measures to properly maintain a structure for self-inspection and evaluation, including the establishment of the Institutional Research (IR) Center in 2015. In addition, it made efforts to achieve transparency in the self-inspection and evaluation process by using publicized information as evidence. Self-inspection and evaluation reports, and certified evaluation and accreditation results, as well as various information used as evidence for such reports and results, were shared with all the people in the school, and at the same time were disclosed to the public through the website. In order to adopt specific improvement measures to achieve its mission and objectives, the institution promoted close collaboration between the governing body and the school organization, and established a mechanism to functionally implement the PDCA cycle of self-inspection and evaluation.

To sum up, the institution fostered competent human resources in the areas of economic science and rehabilitation science under its educational curriculum formulated according to its school philosophy, "Stand in Awe of God, but fear no man, and serve mankind." It has also delivered remarkable educational results as a local university based in Kobe City. Moreover, under the clearly defined policy of becoming a "small but global university", it has actively worked on dispatch of students to foreign universities, and acceptance of foreign students. It is expected that the institution will achieve more success as a distinctive university in the future.

For details about "Standard A. International Exchange", which are set forth as the institution's unique initiative based on its mission and objectives, please refer to the general remarks on the standard.