

SHOWA UNIVERSITY of MUSIC (昭和音楽大学)

Evaluation summary

“Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.”

According to its school philosophy, the institution clearly stated the mission and objectives of the university and graduate schools in the school rules. It plainly and concisely expressed the social missions of respective faculties and the master’s and doctor’s courses of graduate schools, as well as giving a portrait of students to be fostered, which were made known to the public through public relations media such as the website. In particular, the original features of the university were reflected and clearly stated in the objectives specified in Article 1 of the school rules, and Article 2 of the graduate school rules. As for legal compliance, the above original features complied with the School Education Act and the Standards for Establishment of Universities, and met the objectives of the university and graduate schools.

As part of the mid-term plan, the “Educational Curriculum Committee” has started to consider formulating a new educational curriculum responding to changes in laws and regulations, social conditions, etc., reflecting its school philosophy, mission and objectives. They have been reflected in three policies (i.e., diploma policy, curriculum policy and admission policy) to ensure consistency in a way that meets social needs.

“Standard 2. Learning and Teaching”

The institution clearly defined the admission policy for each department and postgraduate course in music, and publicized it taking advantage of different opportunities, including open campus, exam preparation seminars, high school visits, and external admission briefing sessions. The total quotas for entrants and students were fulfilled in all faculties, although there are some departments whose student quotas have not been fulfilled. There is a need to take improvement measures.

The institution promoted enhancement and smooth operation of classroom instruction by appointing teaching assistants (TAs), as well as research fellows and non-regular staff as assistant teachers who play a part in providing highly professional learning support. It has also offered students “field internship” programs for career development, which enable them to have practical working experience that may lead to their future employment. It has secured the number of teachers required to operate the educational curriculum properly. To ensure facilities and equipment necessary for educational and research activities, it created various-sized classrooms, and has properly maintained and utilized them by dividing classes, if there were too many students who intended to take the same subject, to provide a proper learning environment equally to all of them.

“Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance”

The institution clearly defined its purpose and educational concept as a school corporation, and stipulated various rules based on the articles of endowment, including the “Tosei Gakuen Educational Foundation Working Regulations” and the “Tosei Gakuen Educational Foundation Clerical Organization and Division of Duties Regulations”, which helped to maintain management discipline and integrity. The board of directors held a meeting periodically, and the steering

committee worked to ensure prompt and smooth strategic decision-making in accordance with the “Board of Directors Work Consignment Regulations”. The steering committee is an organization that checks the administrative operation function of the governing body and the school organization, and has functioned properly. The administrative director exercised adequate leadership as a chair of the board of directors, and participated in the Faculty Development (FD) Meeting and the Staff Development (SD) Meeting to incorporate ideas from school staff through a bottom-up approach.

The institution ensured proper financial management by formulating a business plan for every fiscal year and the budget based on the mid-term plan, and established a stable financial base. Appropriate accounts procedures were ensured in compliance with various rules, including the Accounts Standards for School Corporations and the accounting regulations.

“Standard 4. Self-inspection and Evaluation”

According to its mission and objectives, the institution established the Inspection and Evaluation Subcommittee and the “Self-inspection and Evaluation Working Group” under the Inspection and Evaluation Committee in order to build an appropriate implementation structure, and conducted self-inspection and evaluation periodically every year by reference to the evaluation criteria specified by the Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation. It conducted different questionnaire surveys for students and graduates, and analyzed data obtained from those surveys. Thus, it has ensured a transparent self-inspection and evaluation process based on evidence. The results of self-inspections and evaluations were shared in the school, and were disclosed to students in the corner of the library as well as to the public via the website. A PDCA cycle that helps to utilize the results of self-inspections and evaluations for improvement and enhancement of education and research, and operations of the institution, was established and has functioned well.

To sum up, the institution has been operated properly according to its school philosophy, mission and objectives, and has strived for distinctive music education and research. It is expected that the institution will improve its operations taking advantage of the features of a single-department college.

For details of “Standard A. Research Activities” and “Standard B. Social Contribution”, 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.