

SEIAN UNIVERSITY OF ART AND DESIGN (成安造形大学)

Evaluation summary

“Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.”

The institution has clearly explained the intent of its school philosophy, “Seian”, as follows: To contribute to creating a secure and peaceful society by cherishing harmony among people, pursuing each individual mission, and continuing efforts to fulfill such missions. According to the school philosophy, it has stated its basic principle (educational philosophy) of “Contribution to society by art” in Article 2-2 of the school rules, and has been promoting education and research projects in Otsu City, Shiga Prefecture.

As educational originality and features, the institution introduced an educational system called “Seian Personal Program” that allows students to identify what they have concerns or interests about, and provides individual support for each of them. It also has strongly promoted its “generous support” for realization of students’ dreams, which the institution had been emphasizing.

With regard to the effectiveness of its mission, goals and educational objectives, the institution has obtained the understanding and support of officers and school staff. It has publicized them internally and externally through various media, including the university brochure and website. They were reflected in its mid- and long-term plans and three policies (i.e., diploma policy, curriculum policy and admission policy). The institution has strived to achieve its educational objectives by developing courses consisting of small-group sessions, and to ensure consistency with its mission and objectives.

“Standard 2. Learning and Teaching”

The institution has strived to fulfill its student quota by reorganizing its education and research structure, which had consisted of 1 faculty and 2 departments, into the one consisting of 1 faculty, 1 department and 5 fields. In addition, it has devised ways of accepting students. It has specifically stated its three policies and publicized them through various media, including the guide to the entrance examination and the website. The academic assessment method was specified in the learning guide (syllabus)”, based on which academic assessments have been conducted.

For career support, the institution established a structure to provide guidance on social and professional independence. It also conducted “class evaluation questionnaire” surveys, and analyzed educational content, methods and learning instruction. The survey results were provided to teachers and students, and at the same time used in efforts for the achievement of educational objectives.

As a system to provide timely support for school life, the institution sought the views and requests of students by placing a “Student Opinion Box” in the cafeteria, and took improvement measures based on those views and requests. It has secured and properly appointed more than the number of full-time teachers stipulated by the Standards for Establishment of Universities. It created a structure to organizationally work for faculty development (FD) activities, under which it planned and implemented efforts to improve the qualities and abilities of teachers. The areas for the

school premises and buildings adequately satisfied the Standards for Establishment of Universities. Its educational environment was created in consideration of the convenience of students, and has been utilized effectively.

“Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance”

The institution as a school corporation has defined its purpose based on the articles of endowment, and has been properly operated in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and various rules. Toward the achievement of its mission and objectives, it introduced a responsibility assignment system to divide the responsibility of the board directors into five categories (academic affairs, legal affairs, finance, affiliated research institution, and social contribution), to reinforce and enhance the functionality of the board of directors.

The management council chaired by the principal has made adjustments to important issues to be discussed in the faculty meeting so that thorough discussions can be carried out before the final decision of the principal. The board of directors strived to form a consensus by sharing important information necessary for management judgment. A flexible structure for execution of operations has been built, and the right people necessary for execution of operations have been placed in the right place.

In terms of financial base, some financial ratios have been low due to large interest-bearing debts. However, those debts have been steadily repaid, and outstanding borrowings have been reduced as planned. It is expected that measures to increase income based on mid- and long-term plans and to continuously decrease expenses will produce good results. Strict accounting audits have been conducted by a certified accountant and auditor-secretary.

“Standard 4. Self-inspection and Evaluation”

In order to conduct inspections and evaluation on its own education and research activities, the institution has undertaken self-inspections and evaluation every year since 2011 in accordance with the “Seian University of Art and Design Self-inspection and Evaluation / Third-party Evaluation Regulations”, after receiving a certified evaluation and accreditation of universities in 2010.

The results of self-inspections and evaluations were shared internally by submitting a report to the faculty meeting and board of directors, as well as distributing it to school staff. At the same time, such reports were properly disclosed to the public via the website.

A system to decide methods, year, and mid- and long-term plans was established and worked effectively based on a school-wide systematic PDCA cycle. Each division has made daily efforts to maintain the PDCA cycle.

To sum up, the institution has provided proper education according to its school philosophy, mission and objectives, and has taken various creative approaches to learning and teaching. In terms of management and administration, the institution has been operated properly, and has made various efforts for financial improvement. For self-inspection and evaluation, it organized the “Self-inspection and Evaluation / Third-party Evaluation Committee” as an implementing body to work on reform based on a PDCA cycle.

For details of “Standard A. 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.