

## Soai University (相愛大学)

### Evaluation summary

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

The institution aims to fulfill its mission to “foster capable human resources through education based on the spirit of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism” according to its school philosophy “To–So–Kyo–Ai (mutual respect and affection)”, and has provided education that enables students to balance “coexistence” and “altruism” through cultivation of religious sentiments, and to think about the way they are supposed to be and the way they should live their life. As for specialized education, the school rules stipulate the purpose of cultivating human resources taking advantage of features for each faculty and department. According to the “Soai University Future Concept”, the institution has started to formulate a new educational goal by continuing the examination of how education should respond to a daily changing social situation. Such approaches show its commitment to qualitative transformation of university education to build a future.

The institution’s educational organizations and operational policies according to its mission and objectives have complied with laws and regulations, including Article 83 of the School Education Act. By hearing the views of members of the whole school through the internal portal site, the institution has obtained school-wide understanding and support.

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

The institution has developed its diploma, curriculum and admission policies according to its mission and objectives, which have been publicized via the website or by other means. It has developed its educational curriculum by organically combining fundamental/common subjects and technical subjects, which has enabled students to take subjects systematically. By adding career-related subjects to the “Fundamental Subjects”, a core subject group, the institution has attempted to help students to take their career views and prepare a career plan. Clearly defining the educational attainment targets in the syllabus, it has confirmed the achievement status of educational objectives through “Class Evaluation Questionnaire” surveys, and has implemented inspections and evaluations to remedy the problems found.

The institution has made efforts to reduce the number of students who repeat a grade or drop out by conducting a “Fact-finding Survey on School Life”, and such efforts have produced good results. The Student Support Center and the Health Care Center have fully performed their functions with sufficient attention to female students. The institution has offered various programs, including its own scholarship and loan programs, and honor student programs.

The number of teachers has exceeded the Standards for Establishment of Universities. The institution has stipulated the “Guidelines for Recruitment of Teachers, Promotion of Personnel, etc.”, and advanced personnel management under the initiative of the principal based on the personnel plan. The Faculty Development (FD) Committee has worked actively.

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

In accordance with the articles of endowment and applicable laws and regulations, the institution

has made continuous efforts for establishment of a stable management foundation to run operations in good faith, and to fulfill its mission as an educational organization. It has clearly stipulated rules and regulations for risk management such as disaster prevention and security, and has given due attention to environment and human rights.

Both the board of directors and the standing board committee have functioned properly. Since assuming office, the present principal has worked on a shift to principal-led operations. The secretary-general of the school organization has doubled as the secretary-general of the governing body, so good communication and collaboration between the governing body and the school organization have been ensured. The evaluation committee has been operated properly.

To improve the qualities and abilities of staff, the institution has put emphasis on interviews between superiors and subordinates, and encouraged them to participate in external seminars, courses, etc.

As for mid- and long-term financial plans, the institution has formulated a new plan after making some modifications in response to its reorganization and changes, and has taken measures for management improvement. Accounting procedures have maintained properly in accordance with various standards and rules, and budgets have been developed in accordance with accounting regulations. Thus, financial transparency has been ensured.

#### “Standard 4. Self-inspection and Evaluation”

The institution prepared an implementation plan, evaluation report and improvement plan for all 130 projects set forth in the “Soai University Future Concept” to conduct self-inspections and evaluations independently and autonomously.

The institution also made efforts to improve its self-inspection and evaluation structure, focusing on issues that need to be considered, including how to respond to projects for which improvements have not been completed, and how to review the formats of the implementation plan, evaluation report and improvement plan.

The institution has conducted highly transparent and objective self-inspections and evaluations by collecting data centering on the “items to be implemented” set forth in the Future Concept, preparing an implementation plan, evaluation report and improvement plan, and building an inspection and evaluation structure in which progress control is ensured. It has disclosed the results of self-inspections and evaluations to the public, and posted the “Soai University Future Concept Implementation and Management List” and the “IR Site” on the internal portal site to share them with all school staff members. It has established a functional PDCA cycle by monitoring process schedules for the achievement of goals, conducting self-inspections and evaluations every year, and building a mechanism to make improvements.

To sum up, the institution has devoted its full effort to pursue transparency under the strong leadership of the principal, and has willingly publicized information which appears unfavorable to it. By developing a process to make improvements and clarifying the achievement status of objectives, it has strived to create a better university on a routine basis. Teachers and other school staff have high morale. Collaboration between them has produced synergies, which has been a driving force toward overcoming issues. Looking at students’ faces and behavior on the campus, it

is obvious that the school philosophy has been well understood by students.

For details of “Standard A. Collaboration with Local Communities”, 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.