

University of Human Environments (人間環境大学)

Evaluation summary

“Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.”

The institution has concisely defined its school philosophy. It has defined its mission, goals and educational objectives in the rules of the university and the graduate school respectively, in which it clarified its originality and features. The school philosophy has different interpretations according to social changes, so it was necessary to adjust it. The goals of the university and the graduate school have complied with the School Education Act. The institution reviewed the method of achieving educational objectives in response to the revision of the School Education Act and changes in social conditions. It has publicized its mission, goals and educational objectives through printed matter and the website, and included them in a management and improvement plan once five years. It has also established organizations necessary to achieve its mission, goals and educational objectives.

“Standard 2. Learning and Teaching”

The institution has defined its admission policy, which has been publicized through printed matter and the website, and has selected entrants in a fair and reasonable manner. The Faculty of Human Environments had difficulty securing entrants, and has not maintained an adequate number of students. It created a curriculum map to schematize its educational curriculum according to the educational curriculum design policy. It made efforts to enhance learning by improving teaching methods through faculty development (FD) activities, setting a school-wide office hour, and appointing technical assistants and teaching assistants (TAs). It has created a framework to guide those who take leave of absence or drop out, and those who suffer from poor academic performance. It has strived to improve class lessons by hearing opinions from students through various questionnaire surveys. It set out the standards for accreditation and graduation/completion certification under the relevant rules, which have been publicized through printed matter. It established suitable organizations for student services, welfare and guidance, and has offered scholarship programs. It has secured a sufficient number of teachers to meet the Standards for Establishment of Universities. Recruitment and promotion procedures were performed according to the rules. The Liberal Arts and Global Education Center is responsible for school-wide liberal arts education. There are sufficient school premises and buildings exceeding the Standards for Establishment of Universities.

“Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance”

The institution has developed the articles of endowment, implementation rules for the articles of endowment, and a basic policy for “social responsibility”, and has identified and publicized the matters to be observed. The school corporation as a whole has been in a sound financial condition, while the university alone has failed to maintain a balance between income and expenditure because it did not secure an adequate number of students. The status of education and research activities has been disclosed on the website. The board of directors and board of councilors were

properly operated in accordance with the articles of endowment. The responsibility and authority of school affairs lie with the principal, and the faculty meeting acts as an advisory body for the principal. The board of directors and faculty meeting made reports to each other so as to narrow the gap between management and academic sections. The clerical organization has necessary divisions and personnel to share information. A management improvement plan was formulated to make various improvements. Proper accounting procedures were performed in accordance with accounting regulations. Audits were strictly conducted by an auditor-secretary and an accountant, respectively, with the aim of ensuring efficiency and transparency.

“Standard 4. Self-inspection and Evaluation”

The institution conducted a self-inspection and evaluation in 2003 and 2007, and underwent the Institutional Certified Evaluation and Accreditation process in 2008. Self-inspection and evaluation reports were publicized via the website. The self-inspection and evaluation implementation interval is seven years, during which time voluntary self-inspections and evaluations had not been conducted and announced. In preparation for the Institutional Certified Evaluation and Accreditation process in 2015, the institution established the “Self-inspection and Evaluation Committee” in 2014 to restart self-inspection and evaluation activities.

To sum up, the institution has properly established and operated systems to develop educational curricula, improve its education and research organizations and environment, and provide student support, toward the achievement of its mission, goals and educational objectives. In terms of management, administration and finance, it has clarified the division of responsibility and authority, and ensured proper operation. It is expected that it will conduct self-inspections and evaluations more effectively in the future.

For details of “Standard A. Collaboration with Society”, 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.