

HIMEJI DOKKYO UNIVERSITY (姫路獨協大学)

Evaluation summary

“Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.”

According to its school philosophy that “a university can offer a place for students to build their characters through learning,” the institution has summarized its mission, goals and objectives as “cultivation of human resources with a well-rounded character who could be a creative bearer of new culture”, which has been clearly stated in the school rules, and has been publicized through different types of media, such as the university brochure and the website. Against the background of its foundation based on the partnership agreement with Himeji City, Hyogo Prefecture, it has put emphasis on contribution to prosperity in the region, and cultivation of human resources who could be a bearer of regional construction as the originality and features of its education. Such a mission, goals and objectives were reflected in a mid- and long-term plan, the “Ninth Dokkyo Group of Academic Institutions Basic Plan (2014)”, and three policies (i.e., diploma policy, curriculum policy, and admission policy).

“Standard 2. Learning and Teaching”

The institution has accepted entrants properly according to its admission policy, and strived to secure a wide variety of entrants. The replenishment rate of student quotas was insufficient in some faculties and departments, while the institution has made efforts to fulfill its student quotas by implementing major reforms of educational organizations, including integration, reorganization and creation of faculties.

The institution has properly developed the educational curricula according to its curriculum policy, and devised class teaching methods, such as introduction of active learning approaches. To grasp students’ learning progress, it has conducted various activities. To provide career guidance, relevant organizations, including the Career Committee and the Career Center, have implemented diverse programs based on necessary data. To provide student services, as well as welfare and guidance services, a structure to support general student life has been built under the Student Affairs Committee which is sufficiently staffed, and the structure has functioned properly. Adequate attention has been paid to preservation and advancement of student health.

For the purpose of achieving its educational objectives, the institution has secured the required number of teachers, and appropriately performed the procedures for teacher recruitment and promotion in accordance with the rules. To improve the qualities and abilities of teachers, the faculty development (FD) committee has played a central role in promoting activities. The institution has created a suitable education and research environment on a campus equipped with school buildings, a library, a gymnasium and affiliated facilities, etc.

“Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance”

In terms of management, the institution has ensured proper administrative operation in accordance with the articles of endowment, and has maintained discipline and integrity. Formulating a mid- and long-term plan, the institution has made continuous efforts to achieve its

mission and objectives. The board of directors has been operated properly in accordance with laws and regulations as well as the articles of endowment, and has been ready to make agile and strategic decisions. The institution has established its decision-making organization, and clarified the authority and responsibility of the organization to ensure its functionality. In order for the principal to exercise adequate leadership, the deputy principal and faculty deans were appointed as the principal's aides.

The institution has managed its financial affairs based on the mid- and long-term plan, and has been making efforts to keep a balance between income and expenditure. Because expenditures have exceeded revenues in the past five years, the institution is planning to take measures to establish a stable financial base in 2016, for example, by creating a new faculty and reorganizing existing faculties. Accounting procedures were performed properly in accordance with relevant rules, and audits were conducted strictly.

“Standard 4. Self-inspection and Evaluation”

According to its mission and objectives, the institution has stated the implementation and publication of self-inspection and evaluation in the school rules, and established related rules and organizations to build a structure to conduct evidence-based self-inspections and evaluations. Self-inspection and evaluation results were internally, as well as disclosed to the public via the website or by other means.

Self-inspection and evaluation results, and certified evaluation and accreditation, were utilized for improvement and enhancement of education, research and the institution's operations through autonomous implementation of surveys on the progress of measures taken, and improvement of those measures. They ultimately contributed to establishment of a PDCA cycle.

To sum up, the institution has provided education according to its clearly-defined school philosophy, mission and objectives, and has taken various inventive approaches to learning and teaching from admission to graduation and employment. It has maintained proper management and administration, and formulated a mid- and long-term plan to establish a stable financial base and ensure sound operations. It has conducted self-inspections and evaluations in accordance with the rules, and has made active efforts to improve the quality of education.

For details of “Standard A. Collaboration and Cooperation with Local Communities / Contribution to 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.