

Hiroshima University of Economics (広島経済大学)

Evaluation summary

“Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.”

The school corporation Ishida Gakuen, which is a parent organization of the institution, was founded in 1907 with the school philosophy of “working together in harmony”. For the purpose of “cultivating human resources who can contribute to local communities and helping to develop economy, culture and sports in the region”, the institution was founded in 1967 as the only university specialized for economics (Economic Department of the Economic Faculty) in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions with the school philosophy that “the way of a university is to clarify the essence of virtue”.

The institution has clearly defined its mission and objectives in Article 3 of Chapter 1 of the “Hiroshima University of Economics School Rules”. Since 2006, based on the school rules, it has defined the image of a man (student) to be nurtured as a “Kodojin (person of involvement and action) who ‘can start from scratch’”, and has systematically summarized and expressed the school philosophies of the parent organization and the institution, the institution’s mission and objectives, and the image of the man (student) to be nurtured. It has steadily introduced measures to respond to changes in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, and has built an education and research structure that supports its mission and objectives from a teaching perspective.

“Standard 2. Learning and Teaching”

The institution has properly publicized its admission policy through the university brochure, website, admission briefing sessions, etc., and has implemented diverse forms of entrance examinations based on the policy. It has devised ways of accepting students, and made exerted efforts to fulfill its student quotas.

The institution clearly defined each curriculum policy for the university and the graduate school, and systematically designed an educational curriculum. It has encouraged teachers and other school staff to cooperate in providing proper learning and teaching support.

Adequate support for social and vocational independence has been provided through various curricular and extracurricular activities. Inspection and evaluation of the achievement of educational objectives were reviewed through school-wide faculty development (FD) based on the results of a “student class evaluation questionnaire” survey implemented twice a year. To provide support for student life, particularly economic support, the institution has taken extensive measures, including its original “Ishida Gakuen Scholarship Program” and “Ishida Gakuen Special Emergency Aid Program”. It has secured a sufficient number of full-time teachers in both university and graduate school to meet the Standards for Establishment of Universities, and properly performed the procedures for teacher recruitment and promotion. It has created a suitable educational environment.

“Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance”

The institution has complied with laws and regulations on the establishment and operations of

universities, including the Private School Act, the School Education Act and the Standards for Establishment of Universities, and has maintained of management discipline and integrity in accordance with the articles of endowment, working regulations, and employment regulations for educational personnel. In addition, it has strived to give consideration to human rights, including protection of personal information.

Financial information has been publicized internally and externally through a complete set of financial statements, list of assets, and audit report.

The institution built a structure that enables an internal organization led by the administrative director to make a strategic decision as the governing body and the school organization, as well as a mechanism to allow the principal to exercise adequate leadership.

Communication between the governing body and the school organization has been maintained. The board of councilors has been substantially operated, although it has some flaws in the procedures for holding a meeting.

The institution has clarified the responsibility and authority of its clerical organization, and given an opportunity for personnel to improve their qualities and abilities. It formulated a mid- and long-term plan, ensured appropriate financial management, and performed strict accounting procedures. Audits were conducted by a certified accountant and an auditor-secretary, respectively.

“Standard 4. Self-inspection and Evaluation”

The institution organized the “Self-inspection and Evaluation Committee”, and stated in the school rules that the committee shall conduct self-inspections and evaluations. According to its mission and objectives, respective internal organizations, such as the “Management Council”, “Personnel Affairs Council”, “Academic Advisory Council” and “Curriculum Coordination Conference”, discussed various issues on a daily basis. The results of these discussions were compiled by the “Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee”, which conducted school-wide self-inspections and evaluations independently and autonomously. To grasp the achievement of its mission and objectives, the institution has strived to conduct evidence-based inspections and evaluations by collecting and analyzing various data obtained from “Student Class Questionnaire” surveys, etc.

In addition, the “Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee” compiled a “Self-inspection and Evaluation Report” once a year. Thus, the institution has conducted self-inspections and evaluations at an appropriate frequency, and has established a PDCA cycle. The “Self-inspection and Evaluation Report” has been disclosed to the public via the website, and shared by all members of the university.

To sum up, the institution has systematically organized and expressed the school philosophies of the parent organization and the institution itself, its mission and objectives, and the image of a man (student) to be nurtured, and encouraged the officers of the governing body and school staff to make concerted efforts to nurture students who can contribute to local communities as the only university specialized for economics in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions.

It is noteworthy that the institution has implemented a student development program that closely links the “Kodojin Introductory Seminar” (a compulsory subject for the first grade) introduced in

2015, to the existing “Kodokan Subject” and the “Kodokan Project”. This can be an effort to further emphasize its originality and features.

For details of “Standard A. Social Contribution, International Exchange, Regional Revitalization, and Economic Activities”, 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.