

## Nagaoka University (長岡大学)

### Evaluation summary

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

The Nagaoka University defines “to cultivate human resources with a wide range of professional workers and promote education implementing practical science” and “to cultivate human resources who can contribute to local society” as its spirit of foundation and clearly defines fostering human resources who can contribute to a region as a core of the local society as its mission. Its approaches to academic-regional and academic-industrial alliance educational programs are employed in programs supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, including modern GP (supporting program to approach modern educational needs) and a program employing the University’s Center of Community (COC) business. The University also created a new division in the department of economics and management and organized its learning environment in 2014 to accommodate needs of changing local society.

The University develops a characteristic educational program of great individuality while adhering to the School Education Act and other related laws and regulations, and thoroughly taking care of the balance between liberal arts education and professional education. Especially, it is worth mentioning that the University is continuously trying to create the framework of a “center of intelligence (land).” The objectives are specifically defined in its middle- and long-term plan and its educational research organizations are organized. The policy and specific methods are specified through three policies (diploma policy, curriculum policy, and admission policy).

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

The University designs its entrance examination methods based on a clearly-defined acceptance policy and the entrance limits are fulfilled with various all-around students. It has built a framework of academic-industrial and academic-regional alliance and actively developed active learning and student presentations of achievement. It also controls student learning using individual counseling (mainly seminars) and an advisor system and secures opportunities of counseling. There are some innovations of education such as guarantees of learning quality using a credit CAP system.

The University also has a wide variety of carrier education subjects and a program to promote off-classroom activities, resulting in a good employment rate. Based on evaluation through lecture questionnaires, student satisfaction surveys, etc. it improves lectures using feedback. It also maintains a support system for the total student life, including financial support of multidimensional scholarships and professional counseling of physical and mental well-being.

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

The University has a Gakuen conference as a consultative body for the Chairman, in

addition to regular the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees meetings. It adheres to the applicable laws and regulations, and publishes educational and financial information properly. It is highly appreciated that the University has been continuously adopted for supporting grant projects of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for a long time.

There is a system where the President can exert leadership and the President actually has a key role in the operation such as formulating a middle- and long-term plan, making decisions regarding the University, and implementing duties. There is a system where the corporate business and the University can interact with each other, and opinions of the Chairman, auditors, trustees, teachers, and staff are reflected in operation of the University.

In the financial situation, imputed balances continue to be negative for the past three years, but the acceptance limit has been fulfilled since 2014 and measures to stabilize the financial situation were taken, including modification to the school code to increase the acceptance limit. The accounting procedures are properly conducted according to the code. Audits are also strictly performed.

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

In Self-Inspection and Evaluation, the University has organized regulations as well as established a “University Evaluation Section” to set up a system to inspect and evaluate continuously and substantially. The section summarizes and publishes an annual inspection and evaluation report according to the University COC Project. The results of the Self-Inspection and Evaluation are dealt with in plan-do-check-action (PDCA) cycle and discussed in related conferences, etc. and therefore they function to improve the whole University including educational research.

In general, based on the spirit of foundation to cultivate human resources who can contribute to local society, the University organizes educational research system to attain its mission and educational objectives, maintains the whole governance with close communication with Board members and related parties of the corporate business, and teachers, staff, students and its guardians of the University, organizes environment of facilities and equipment, and makes continuous efforts to self-inspect, evaluate and improve to create a University as a center of the region in order to make continuous approach to stabilize its finance ground and improve quality of education and research.

Please see the general comments of the standard for “Standard A. Contribution to Society and Regional Alliances” defined as a unique framework of the University based on its mission and goals.