

AOMORI UNIVERSITY (青森大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The mission and goals of the University are to teach and research academic theory and application, foster promising and sensible human resources, contribute to the development of culture and human welfare, while at the same time contributing to the enhancement of local community. The University is recognized to adhere to the relevant laws, aims to expand itself on all fronts while responding to the changing social environment, and implement continuous reforms and improvements. Furthermore, the entire University's incorporated entity's medium-to-long-term plan thoroughly positions all the University's initiatives.

The three basic principles in education and research are stipulated and clearly stated in line with the University's mission and goals, shared by the students, faculty and staff, and reflected in the practice of teaching and learning. In particular, the President's powerful leadership advocates the "renaissance of Aomori University" and through the implementation of specific courses based on the "Aomori University Basic Standards" while the individuality and distinctive quality of education is set forth, the manner in which the University exerts its every effort to nurture human resources capable of contributing to the local community merits special mention.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

The University has in place an overall process for admitting students, fostering the ideal human resources through educational activities, and supporting their students towards the goal of social and professional independence. With regards to admissions the University provides an array of entrance examinations in line with its admission policy, and although some of the departments are not obtaining their full student quota the University is striving to boost its links with affiliated and local high schools, and striving to secure students. The educational curriculum fosters each and every student's learning ability and skills in building relationships with others, while at the same time prudent initiatives to encourage links with the local community are implemented. In particular, the study through courses on Problem Bases Learning (PBL) and contributing to the community are proving to be learning that robustly links in with career paths.

The awarding of credits and graduation adjudication are carried out stringently, and while the quality of students' study is assured the evaluation and improvement of the faculty is also carried out on an organized basis in a system that enables the objective control of their quality.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

The University's incorporated entity and the University seek to raise management discipline and integrity, observe laws, and pay due consideration to human rights and safety, while continuing to make every effort to make a reality of these missions and goals. In order that the University can autonomously plan and manage itself, organizational innovations can be discerned efforts to smoothly link the Board of Directors and the execution of business. The Board of Directors, pursuant to the articles of endowment, is appropriately managed while it carefully examines the progress of the medium-to-long-term plan. The University has established a General Managers' Meeting presided over by the President that conducts operational guidance and the sharing of information. It has also founded an "Education and Learning Reform Task Force," and an education and learning PDCA cycle has been established. A system to assist the President is also in place, as well as a system to secure the leadership of the President. The encouragement of interdepartmental communication and Staff Development (SD) has been boosted. While the quality and ability of faculty and staff is being improved, the system for administrative procedures is also being bolstered. The establishment of financial management, the financial base, accounting procedures and audits are consistently of a high standard.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

The University pursues its business according to its own business plan and medium-to-long-term-

plan, and each of their initiatives is evaluated through the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Report. A committee chaired by the President has been established and a constant evaluation system is in place. The collation and analyses of research and data concerning educational and research activities is conducted, and this information is put to use in Institutional Research (IR). The results are utilized in inspections and improvements during the PDCA cycle, centering on the Education and Learning Task Force, and are linked in with the concrete practices of faculty and staff.

In summary, the University, in view of its locality, and in order to foster human resources required by the community and who can become linked with the revitalization of the community, is developing educational and research enterprises through a variety of initiatives and mechanisms. Simultaneously it is constantly aware of improving its quality as a University, continuously reforms and improves the content of its education and research, and has achieved a presence as an individualistic University in the community.

Note that with regard to the University's unique initiatives regarding its mission and goals, the general comments on "Standard A. University coexisting with the local community" should be referred to.