

Ueno Gakuen University (上野学園大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The origins of the University lie in a girls' school established in 1904, and its founding principle centers on the concept of self-awareness, which was the educational policy emphasized by the President of the school at the time, Kuragoro Ishibashi. This founding principle has been maintained to the present day, now the University is coeducational, and is stipulated in the University Regulations. The University's policy of nurturing the spirit of self-awareness through music and conducting the development of human resources who can pass on that spirit to subsequent generations is reflected in the University Regulations, and its individuality and distinctive qualities are shown. The University makes efforts to publicize its mission and goals to students at the entrance ceremony and other occasions, to faculty and staff through the All-Faculty and Staff Meeting, and to the outside the University through its website. The University's mission, goals and educational objectives are reflected in the annual business plan as educational and research activities. Furthermore, a medium-to-long-term vision is adopted for its approach to educational reform, reflecting the three policies of diploma policy, curriculum policy and admission policy. An education and research organization and facilities are in place to attain the University's mission and goals.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

The University clearly states its admission policy, and the various entrance examinations are appropriately implemented. In terms of the distinctive quality of class instruction methods, the University has a low student-teacher ratio, a learning level streaming system, an open individual lesson system, a playing advisor system and other innovations. Collaboration between faculty and staff is achieved through, for example, the course registration guidance provided at the start of each academic year and other guidance on registering courses. Career counsellors are posted to the Career Support Center, and guidance given regarding an array of different career paths. Consideration is also paid by the provision of various types of guidance on around 40 types of recruitment, which are arranged on days of the week and times that make it easy for students to participate in. Surveys of the circumstances of students' lifestyle are conducted, the opinions and hopes of students regarding their general day-to-day lives are ascertained on a wide basis and problems are solved. The Ishibashi Memorial Hall, an educational facility, is a medium-sized concert hall with excellent acoustics and the stage for tuition and numerous recitals by both musicians studying at the University and invited to perform from outside.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

Pursuant to the articles of endowment, various regulations have been put in place for the maintenance of management discipline and integrity. With regard to safety the University has established its Crisis Management Regulations, and a system is in place for putting into practice countermeasures against matters that have to be dealt with on an emergency basis. The Board of Directors is situated as the supreme decision-making body, and is operated appropriately with the advance submittal of documents etc. The President acts as the Chairperson of the Faculty Council, the Student Committee, the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee, the Faculty Development (FD) Committee and other bodies, and is exercising leadership. With respect to the management system for the staff's execution of their business, personnel evaluations are conducted each year in line with the personnel evaluation system. Initiative towards the establishment of financial operations are insufficient, entrants are not fully secured and a stable financial based has yet to be achieved. The University's accounting procedures are conducted properly and pursuant to the Accounting Standards for Incorporated Educational Institutions. The various University regulations need to be reviewed to adapt to amendments to the law, and the disparity between the University Regulations and the actual state of the University is an issue requiring immediate measures.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

The University has organized a Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee according to its Self-Inspection and Evaluation Regulations and the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee Regulations, and conducts independent and autonomous self-inspections and evaluations. The President serves as the Chairperson of the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee, which also consists of the Dean and various committee chiefs. In addition, with an awareness of the importance of evidence, this evidence is drawn up by each unit of the University and its incorporated entity. The activities of the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee are made known to the faculty through the Section Chief Council and Faculty Council. Improvements and reforms made as a result of self-inspections and evaluations were previously the remit of the Management Planning Office but are now taken charge of by the Management Reform Office, and attempts are being made to establish a PDCA cycle by tackling the issues uncovered by the self-inspections and evaluations.

In summary, the University is implementing undergraduate program education in line with both its founding, educational and research principles and objectives, and is adapting to the changing times. However, the number of students is continuously falling below the total capacity, and the business activities income and expenditure (imputed income and expenditure balance) is with a partial exception in the red. As a result if this the balance brought forward payment funds are not being adequately obtained and subsequently there is an urgent need to secure full enrollment quotas and total capacity, and make improvements to establish a financial base.

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