

TAKACHIHO UNIVERSITY (高千穂大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

Under Article 1 of the University Regulations, the guideline for academic culture of “Progressivity that is always half a step ahead” and the academic culture goals of “Strong in spirit and sound in mind”, “Fair and free-spirited”, and “International and peace-loving” have been prescribed as the University’s founding and educational principles. The University’s mission and goals have been concretely and simply stated in writing in the University Regulations. “Student images to cultivate” have been prescribed and clearly stated as the University’s individuality and distinctive qualities by each undergraduate faculty and graduate school. Furthermore, the University’s mission and goals have been made widely known through the University website, University Guide, and Course Guidelines.

“Dissemination and thorough understanding of the University’s founding and educational principles and the mission and goals of the University’s incorporated entity” have been given at the first item in the “Seventh Medium-Term Management Plan”; the University’s mission, goals and educational objectives are reflected in the medium-term plan and three policies of diploma policy, curriculum policy, and admission policy, and an educational and research organization embodying the mission, goals and educational objectives has been established.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

The aforementioned three policies are clearly prescribed and made public. With regard to the number of entrants, high school visits carried out by all faculty and staff has achieved increases in the enrollment quota-fill rate since the 2015 academic year, with all departments fulfilling their enrollment quotas for the 2017 academic year.

“Takachoho Safety Net” initiatives are being implemented with the aim of reducing the number of students who withdraw or are expelled from the University.

Feedback on faculty is obtained through implementation of tuition evaluation questionnaires. A system has been established whereby faculty express their opinions regarding questionnaire results and submit plans for tuition reform, leading to improvements in educational content and methods as well as learning guidance. Student living support is provided through the collaboration of various organizations, with the Student Committee playing a central role. Improvements to student services are implemented based on the results of student living surveys.

Full-time department faculty are allocated appropriately. University grounds, buildings, libraries, computer rooms, gymnasium facilities, sporting grounds, and other facilities have been provided appropriately and an educational environment established.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

The Board of Directors undertakes strategic decision-making in accordance with the “Medium-Term Management Plan” and “Annual Business Plan”, which are formulated every five years. Furthermore, maneuverable operations are overseen by the Executive Committee, which holds weekly meetings. A Joint Faculty Council chaired by the University President has been established; the Faculty Council endeavors to conduct thorough deliberations and deliver swift decisions, and its authorities and responsibilities are clearly stated. Communication among the Joint Faculty Council, Undergraduate Faculty Council, Graduate School Committee, and administrative offices is established. With regard to faculty, promotions are made fairly and impartially according to merit based on regulations.

Based on the “Medium-Term Management Plan”, business plans and budgeting policies are formulated for each academic year and financial operations are carried out appropriately. The University has ample financial assets in the form of specific assets and cash and deposits, and its financial base is stable. Accounting procedures are carried out appropriately, and accounting audits conducted strictly with the full-time auditors who conduct business audits and auditing firms that act as independent auditors exchanging opinions.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

The Executive Committee, which functions as the “Self-Inspection Steering Committee”, holds meetings on a weekly basis, while the Education and Learning Committee, Division Head Committee and Division Head/Section Chief Liaison Meeting, which functions as the “Self-Inspection Implementation Committee” generally meets once a month. Self-inspections and evaluations are carried out based on monthly progress reports and inspection results that are presented at and discussed at meetings of these committees. Summarizing self-inspection and evaluation activities, the “Annual Business Report and Estimated Financial Statements for this Academic Year” and “Business Plan Draft and Budget Proposal for the Next Academic Year” also play the role of “Self-Inspection and Evaluation Reports”.

The Board of Directors formulates budgeting policies based on the “Medium-Term Management Plan” and the Education and Learning Committee and other committees implement inspections and evaluations, while the Executive Committee oversees University operations overall. These organs prepare activity reports and financial statements, and the process of formulating business plans and budget plans for the following academic year is carried out as a PDCA cycle within self-inspection and evaluation activities. Furthermore, by reflecting the results of evaluations conducted through the preparation of activity reports and financial statements in plans for the following academic year, the University is constructing and functionally implementing mechanisms for improving and enhancing university operations.

In summary, based on academic culture guidelines and goals established as the University’s founding and educational principles, organic collaboration is achieved among the University’s educational and research system, management and administrative system, and faculty and staff organization, and operations are carried out appropriately in accordance with the relevant laws and ordinances. In future, it is anticipated that the University will continue to strongly emphasize its distinctive quality and originality, nurturing human resources with practical specializations.

Note that with regard to the University’s unique initiatives regarding its mission and goals, the general comments on “Standard A. International cooperation” and “Standard B. Social contribution” should be referred to.