

## **Nishikyushu University (西九州大学)**

### Evaluation summary

#### **Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.**

The founding principles of the University are cited as fostering individuals who will teach a sophisticated degree of knowledge, seek to improve humanity, contribute to society with professional knowledge and applied technology, improve world culture and contribute to human welfare. The education policy is summed up in the easily understood phrase of “Asunaro,” which the University defines as “a positive attitude promoting achievement of aspirations” and the mission, goals and educational objectives have all been documented. The University has also made its “local community university declaration,” conducts educational and research activities that tie in with solving problems in the local community, and clearly presents its collaborations with the local community as a factor that gives it individuality and distinctive quality. These practices are not merely the result of initiatives on the part of the University or its transmission of information, but can also be described as countermeasures to the recent changes in the state of society, and have been built up in a mutual relationship of trust towards the University from the local community and the return of educational achievement to the local community on the part of the University.

#### **Standard 2. Learning and Teaching**

The admission policy has been designed from the perspective of fostering human resources in professional occupations who can help to revitalize the local community. In line with this policy, a wide variety of entrance examinations are conducted, and efforts to secure students made. Furthermore, in the common educational curriculum, in courses such as the Asunaro Experience I – III course, students are not limited solely to their specialist area and can take part in volunteering, local community work, group work, problem-solving-based learning and experience-based learning through which they put into practice both their career education and the idea of the “local community university.”

In addition the University has a low teacher-to-student ratio system, student records are kept, and efforts made to keep meticulous details about the behavior of students, their attendance or absence from class and awarding of credits right from when they enter the University. Feedback is provided to students and detailed guidance is given. Not only is the University fully equipped with all the requisite facilities and equipment, it also serves as a community activity support facility by being open to citizens. It has established the Nishikyushu University Group Community Collaboration Center, and mutually cooperates with the local community by putting back into it its research achievements.

#### **Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance**

The School Corporation Nagahara Gakuen, which is the university provider, has prepared the various internal regulations for the University in strict compliance with the Basic Act on Education, School Education Act, Private Schools Act and other legislation, continuously strives to realize the University’s mission and goals, and has declared the maintenance of management discipline and integrity. The Director governs school affairs, oversees the faculty and staff, possesses authority with respect to all matters related to education and research, and bears final responsibility. The Director also serves as the Board Chair, implements smooth decision-making with regard to the mutual intentions of the University's incorporated entity and education and learning division, and university operation and governance is functioning through mutual checking. Suggestions from faculty and staff are deliberated over by various types of committees, suggested at the Director’s Office Council, and there is a system for making these suggestions specific at the Faculty Council; operations are therefore conducted with both leadership and a good bottom-up balance. Since the 2003 academic year the University has continuously created a business plan and compiled a budget in line with the Medium-Term Goals and Plan. The University’s fiscal balance is at an appropriate level, and the financial base is in a healthy state of affairs.

#### **Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation**

Pursuant to the Nishikyushu University Self-Inspection and Evaluation Regulations, which were reformed in the 2002 academic year, the Nishikyushu University Inspection and Evaluation Operation Committee was organized and prepared as an implementation system. Self-inspection and evaluation is implemented through an action program that is formulated each year according to the Medium-Term Goals and Plan, and the degree of attainment is summarized. Through these efforts the university operations for the realization of its founding principles, mission, goals and educational objectives are made visible, and a PDCA cycle mechanism has been established.

In summary, under the leadership of the Board Chair, Director, and Deputy Director, the unique Asunaro Experience I – III course has been established incorporating the perspective of various volunteer and community collaboration activities contributing to the fostering of core human resources to vitalize the local community, and an educational curriculum with special features has been designed. It is to be hoped that future learning achievement will be enhanced by the construction and practice of a comprehensive curriculum for the first to third year students.

Note that with regard to the University's unique initiatives regarding its mission and goals, the general comments on "Standard A. Making diploma policy concrete (education and research that links in with the local community)" should be referred to.