

HACHINOHE GAKUIN UNIVERSITY (八戸学院大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The founding principles of respect for God and love of people are clearly reflected in the University's founding principles.

The educational and research organization is composed in order to meet the University's mission and goals, and is understood and supported by the executives, faculty and staff. The educational objectives for each department are stated in concise and plain language, and are adequately specific in their content. The Course Program system provides students with vital indicators for the completion of courses and while maintaining a global perspective express the University's ambition to be a university deeply rooted in the local community.

The Medium-To-Long-Term Management Plan that started last year (and will run for five years from the academic years 2016 to 2020; hereinafter referred to as "The Five-Year Plan") pays due consideration to the consistency of the University's long-term vision and changes in the times, and is unflinchingly checked and constantly implemented. The newly established Management Council puts forward sound management plans based on medium-to-long-term prospects.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

Student admission is conducted fairly and in line with the clearly stipulated selection judgement standards, and the number of entrants is always steadily and appropriately secured. In terms of the educational aspects classes are streamlined according to ability, innovative measures such as exchange of credits between other faculty courses and nearby universities, and the support system for learning and class is functioning effectively due to collaboration between faculty and staff.

Appropriate career planning guidance is also provided to students. The road safety workshops contribute to raising students' awareness of laws pertaining to the use of automobiles and motorbikes. In addition, the Campus Emergency Number 110 and other services offer students a mechanism through which direct consultation is possible,

The securing and posting of the full-time faculty satisfies the conditions of the Standards for Establishment of Universities, and the age structure of the full-time faculty is generally well-balanced.

The surface areas of the school grounds and school building meet the Standards for Establishment of Universities, and are properly managed in line with the relevant regulations.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

Through the promotion of education based on the founding principles and community collaboration the University is sincerely operated as an educational institution responding to the requests of society in line with the articles of endowment and other relevant laws. As a result of concerted efforts to restructure the University's finances, the steady stabilization of the management foundation has been achieved.

The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee function well. The Faculty Council that formulates basic policy regarding education and research deliberate over the matters requisite in order to aim for improvements in students' learning achievements.

Training is conducted each year in order to improve the quality and ability of staff, while staff are also sent to external administrative training groups in order to enable the ongoing enhancement of their ability and boost their professionalism.

Aiming to achieve sound financial operations, the University achieved a move into the black regarding imputed income and expenditure balance (current standard term: operation income and expenditure balance) during the 2014 academic year.

The compilation and execution of the University's budget and other accounting procedures are appropriately conducted and maintain transparency in line with various standards and regulations. Audits are implemented by an accountant auditor and auditor, in addition to which internal audits are held and a meticulous audit engagement is managed.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

The University's self-inspections and evaluations are conducted by the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee pursuant to the University Regulations. The evaluation results are reported upon to the Operations Council and Faculty Council, published as the Hachinohe Gakuin University Self-Inspection and Evaluation Report, which is made public on the University website and widely known both on-campus and outside of the University. Simultaneously, matters requiring reform are listed up and attended to swiftly, mainly by the President, and the reform results are shared at the Cross-University Faculty Council.

The Institutional Research (IR) organization for which the President is responsible has started to collate and analyze the information essential for education and research, student support, university management and so on, and preparations are underway towards the drafting of new concepts.

Each department and committee ascertain the state to which the previous academic year's business plan has been attained and sums up the issues, formulate reform plans aimed at problem-solving in the plan for the subsequent year, and a continuous PDCA cycle function has been created.

In summary, under the strong leadership of the President and an advanced operation policy, the University faculty and staff closely collaborate to improve learning achievement, and the University's incorporated entity has developed a system for the sincere support of these efforts. The positioning of the University as one that emphasizes the local community is one of its major distinctive qualities. This can be perceived through the courteous greetings and behavior exhibited by its students, and it is to be hoped that the University will go from strength to strength.

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