

# HOKUSHO UNIVERSITY (北翔大学)

## Evaluation summary

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

Based on the University's founding principles of "Aiming to produce human resources capable of earnestly and creatively responding to constant changes in society, nurturing independent adult members of society who have acquired a high degree of specialization and broad knowledge", the University's mission, goals and educational objectives are clearly prescribed in the University and Graduate School Regulations and made widely known both on-campus and outside of the University via the University website. Furthermore, the University appropriately tailors its educational objectives in order to respond to changes in society.

The University's mission, goals and educational objectives are reflected in the three policies of diploma policy, curriculum policy, and admission policy, and furthermore the Third Incorporated Educational Institution Asai Gakuen Medium-Term Plan (2016 to 2030 academic years) has been promulgated to ensure that these are achieved.

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

The University's admission policy is made public via the University's website and entrant selection is carried out in accordance with this policy; however, some departments are not meeting their enrollment quotas and each department is pursuing measures to rectify this situation. The University's educational curriculum has been organized based on its educational objectives, and upper limits have been set for the number of credits that may be registered. Furthermore, the University Health Center, Student Counselling Office, and other facilities work in collaboration to provide students with support for learning and class instruction. With regard to the awarding of degrees, screening is carried out strictly by multiple faculties, with decisions made following deliberations by department meetings, faculty meetings, and the Faculty Council. With regard to career education, subjects aimed at fostering employability have been incorporated into the educational curriculum, with internships for Second and Third Year students set and implemented as University-wide common subjects. The results of student tuition evaluation questionnaires are disclosed and made publicly available, with faculty submitting comments in response to these results, leading to improvements in educational content and methods as well as learning guidance. A Student Living Support Committee has been established to provide support for student living and plays a central role in Student Personnel Services. The number of full-time faculty meets the Standards for Establishment of Universities, and the University endeavor to enhance the quality and ability of faculty. An educational environment—including university grounds, libraries, and gymnasiums—has been appropriately provided and is being utilized effectively.

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

The goals of the University's incorporated entity are clearly prescribed in the articles of endowment and internal regulations have been formulated in compliance with the relevant laws and ordinances, establishing structure and governance. In addition to the Board of Directors, the University has established an Executive Committee and an Internal Directors' Study Group, constructing a system enabling flexible and strategic decision-making. Furthermore, to ensure that University operations are carried out under the University President's own leadership, the President acts as the Chairperson of both the Faculty Council and the Operation and Planning Committee. Comprising the Chair of the Board of Directors, Senior Directors, the President, and the Vice Presidents, the Executive Committee and Internal Directors Study Group function as forums for both obtaining mutual understanding and making mutual checks between the University's incorporated entity and the University. Staff Development (SD) regulations aimed at enhancing the quality and ability of staff have been established, and training workshops are conducted. In the 2016 academic year, the operation income and expenditure balance for both the University alone and the University's incorporated entity overall was in the black, maintaining fiscal balance. Accounting procedures are carried out appropriately in accordance with accounting regulations based on the

Accounting Standards for Incorporated Educational Institutions.

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

Under Hokusho University Inspection and Evaluation Regulation, an appropriate system for implementing self-inspections and evaluations, including the establishment of an Inspection and Evaluation Committee, has been created; independent and autonomous self-inspections and evaluations are carried out, and evaluation and accreditation measures are also being implemented. Furthermore, surveys and data collection/analysis are carried out by the General Administration Division of Secretariat under the auspices of the Inspection and Evaluation Committee, and self-inspections and evaluations are performed based on the evidence provided by this information. With regard to issues identified in the evaluation processes implemented by the Inspection and Evaluation Committee, a PDCA cycle framework has been established whereby hearings are conducted with the relevant department and solutions implemented.

In summary, the University is conducting education and research activities appropriately in accordance with its founding principles and its mission and goals, which are based on the founding principles. The Third Incorporated Educational Institution Asai Gakuen Medium-Term Plan (2016 to 2030 academic years) is being steadily implemented, and initiatives aimed at enabling the University to contribute to the local community are being pursued based on a stable fiscal balance.

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