

Kyushu University of Health and Welfare (九州保健福祉大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The University's Mission Statement—"Our aim is to maximize students' individual potential and develop good citizens in both local and international communities"—are incorporated in the objectives for human resources development in each area of specialization when undergraduate faculties, departments, courses, and Graduate Schools are established, and are clearly stated in the University Regulations. Based on these objectives, the Education Development and Research Promotion Core Center (hereinafter referred to as the "Core Center"), which is the highest advisory body for the President, decides three policies—diploma policy, curriculum policy, and admission policy—in addition to medium-term educational and research targets. After these policies have been deliberated by the Representative Faculty Council, they are notified to all faculty members via the Undergraduate Program Faculty Council and the Graduate School Faculty Council.

At the Kick-off Meeting held at the beginning of the academic year and attended by all faculty members, and biannual friendship gatherings, the Chair of the Board of Directors and the President speak about the University's incorporated entity as well as the University's mission and goals, and the practice of faculty and staff carrying out their work duties consciously aware of the University's mission and goals has taken root.

- A concrete Code of Conduct based on the University's Mission Statement, and the mission of the University's incorporated entity are presented as the entity's motto "Path" in an easy-to-understand manner as well as the reciting of this motto by all staff at the beginning of regular staff meetings can be commended as initiatives aimed at consistently realizing the mission and goals of the University's incorporated entity since the University's opening.

Standard 2. Students

The admission policy is publicized via the University website and various other media. Although the University offers a range of entrance examinations with the aim of admitting a diversity of students, greater effort to secure student enrollment is required in some departments.

Beginning with the Student Support Center, each division has outstanding students participate as assistants in first-year student education and other activities, and support is provided for self-learning and group learning through the promotion of active learning. Furthermore, student opinions and requests regarding the above activities are incorporated into initiatives to further enhance the learning environment. In addition, the University provides appropriate student services, such as inviting University graduates to speak and participate in lectures and career education, and endeavoring to assist students seeking employment through the use of student consultants.

The campus and buildings have been appropriately improved and developed, and the incorporation of barrier-free facilities is also being promoted. The learning environment is therefore being

improved and developed sufficiently, ensuring effective use of facilities for practical training as well as managing class numbers.

- The University can be commended for establishing various student support systems, including the two independent scholarships: the Founder Tsutomu Kake Scholarship and the Juji Memorial Scholarship.
- The University can be commended for creating a learning environment that encourages improvement in students' language capabilities, such as the provision of e-learning through the Learning Support Center aimed at improving the English language capabilities of students desiring to study abroad and utilization of opportunities for English conversation training with native English speakers through the English Village.
- The University's learning support web system can be commended as a system that ensures meticulous and careful responses to students due to mechanisms that enable access by students' parents/guardians.

Standard 3. Educational curriculum

The diploma policies are clearly stated in accordance with the educational objectives of the undergraduate faculties, departments, and Graduate Schools, and standards for awarding credits have been formulated. Curriculum policies consistent with the diploma policies have been decided, and a systematic educational curriculum has been organized utilizing curriculum maps and numbering. In addition to the University Regulations, these policies are clearly stated in the University's student handbooks and are made known to student through guidance, etc. Furthermore, by incorporating e-learning into teaching methods aimed at encouraging independent learning and remedial education, the University is promoting initiatives to ensure that liberal arts education and specialized education are conducted effectively.

With regard to inspection of learning achievements, in addition to syllabus checks that include third party evaluators, the Core Center's Education Development Division is playing a central role in implementing class questionnaires and lecture observation systems, thereby endeavoring to improve educational content/methods and learning guidance.

Standard 4. Faculty and Staff

With regard to important matters regarding education and learning, the Core Center discusses and determines recommendations in reply to the President's consultation. A final decision is made after the President has heard the opinion of the Representative Faculty Council, and the decision is then disseminated via the Intranet, thereby demonstrating the President's leadership. The organizational positioning of the Faculty Council and various other councils is prescribed under the relevant regulations, and authorities are appropriately decentralized and responsibilities clearly defined. Faculty are properly assigned in accordance with the Standards for Establishment of Universities and the educational objectives, and the employment and promotion of faculty is carried out in accordance with the selection criteria and other University regulations, with the President making the final

decision.

The Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee as well as committees under the Core Center conduct inspections, evaluations, and reviews based on data from various types of questionnaires and other sources, and the findings are utilized in University-wide initiatives aimed at improvements at Faculty Development (FD) training, academic exchange conferences, as well as the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee General Meeting. Furthermore, in order to invigorate research activities, interdisciplinary research is promoted through the QOL Research Organization, and in addition to securing external funds, the University is endeavoring to secure and expand commissioned research and joint research with business enterprises.

- The President's efforts to improve the educational and research environment as well as hear the opinion of each Faculty member through initiatives such as making the President's Office open to all and installing an "Opinion Box" for messages to the President in the Faculty mailbox area can be commended.
- The Junsei Educational Institution Academic Exchange Conference for schools established by the Junsei Educational Institution can be commended as a forum for practical reporting aimed at enhancing the teaching and research capabilities of faculty, such as presentations of the results of efforts by the Education Division and the Research Division.
- The Kick-off Meeting held at the beginning of the academic year and attended by all faculty and staff can be commended for making each faculty and staff member aware of their own individual role in achieving the targets for the relevant administrative division/department.
- The Quality of Life Research Institute, which is an interdisciplinary research institution, can be commended for effectively utilizing the University's resources, obtaining Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, and achieving various results through joint research and commissioned research.

Standard 5. Management, Administration and Finance

In accordance with the Junsei Educational Institution Articles of Endowment, the Board of Directors regularly discusses and decides important matters regarding management and university operation, while the Board of Councilors functions appropriately as an advisory body. Furthermore, the Standing auditors work at the University's incorporated entity headquarters, and strictly carry out operation audits and accounting audits.

The University's incorporated entity has established the Gakuen Council and the University has established the University Council to provide advice and make adjustments regarding general future plans and business plans aimed at realizing the Mission Statement at the incorporated entity level and university level, respectively, making continuous efforts to ensure communication and mutual understanding between the Board of Directors and the University as well as realizing the University's mission and goals.

Based on the basic policies of the University's incorporated entity and the University, medium-term targets and plans are formulated, and the business plan is reviewed and a budget plan compiled

for each academic year. Efforts are being made to stabilize the University's financial base while operations incorporate energy-saving measures and measures for ensuring safety premised on the occurrence of Nankai Trough Earthquakes; however, due to the issue of securing student enrollments, expectations are held for further initiatives to guarantee the University's sustainability.

- The University can be commended for conducting disaster-prevention education regarding earthquakes and tsunamis premised on the occurrence of Nankai Trough Earthquakes during orientation at the beginning of the academic year and disaster prevention drills, as well as providing all students with an Earthquake Manual that can be used in the event of an emergency and instructing them to carry the manual with them at all times.

Standard 6. Internal Quality Assurance

An Education Development Division, Research Promotion Division, and Social Contribution Division have been established within the University's Core Center. These divisions formulate plans and proposals as well as coordinate with the undergraduate faculties, departments, and Graduate Schools with regard to matters related to the promotion of education and research at the University and Graduate Schools, activities to develop the abilities of faculty and staff, community contribution activities, and international contribution activities. Furthermore, the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee has been established under the Core Center. This committee verifies the implementation status of business plans for each academic year and formulates business plans for the next academic year, thereby creating an internal quality assurance system.

The Institutional Research (IR) Promotion Committee has also been established under the Core Center. This committee collects and analyzes data from various questionnaires and educational and research environment surveys in an effort to improve students' university life and learning environment. In future, the IR Promotion Committee aims to work in collaboration with the Junsei Educational Institution IR Promotion Office in order to utilize this data even more organically to create a University that is attractive to students centered on assessment based on University goals.

- The Core Center can be commended for taking a central role in creating committees aimed at contributing to education, research and the local community, which is a characteristic of the University, overseeing FD and SD activities, establishing the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee under its auspices, setting assessment criteria for business plans based on medium-term targets and plans and establishing mechanisms for implementing the PDCA cycle.
- The participation of local government representatives and other external committee members at Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee General Meetings can be commended as an initiative aimed at achieving independent and autonomous self-inspection and evaluation.

In summary, as a university established through public-private cooperation with Nobeoka City, Miyazaki Prefecture, based on clear objectives Kyushu University of Health and Welfare has established an educational and research curriculum that is essential for the local community and

founded on the Mission Statement of the University's incorporated entity, and is continuing to strive to maintain and further improve education and research quality by responding to the local community's changing needs. Expectations are held that in future the University will not only produce human resources capable of serving the local community, but also increase its attractiveness and achieve stable student enrollment by making the PDCA cycle function even more actively.

Note that with regard to the University's unique standards, the general comments on "Standard A. Initiatives for achieving community vitalization through public-private cooperation" should be referred to.

It should be noted that the University has cited the following remarks.

1. Worker education
2. International interaction
3. Northern Miyazaki regional research base