Cyber University（サイバー大学）

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The University is a for-profit university under the Fukuoka Asian Business Special Zone System. The University's founding philosophy is to "Offer many people willing to learn with an opportunity to acquire extensive, high-quality education without the constraints of location, time, individual environment or situation, and strives to nurture capable personnel who will form tomorrow's society". Currently, commuting to a physical university campus for the Department of Information Technology and Business, Faculty of Information Technology and Business, is not necessary as the university endeavors to nurture advanced IT experts by providing a diversity of learners with learning opportunities through online education utilizing media.

The University's founding philosophy, mission, goals, and educational objectives are also firmly reflected in the three mission statements prescribed under the Cyber University Mid-term Objectives, which are important action objectives for university operation. These objectives have been made widely known to all faculty and staff, and a faculty and department as well as departments and centers of the Academic Affairs Division, committees/councils, and other educational and research organizations have been established and provide appropriate management and operation necessary for achieving the afore-mentioned objectives.

Good point
○ The University's development of online education utilizing media that does not require students to commute to a physical university campus is a distinctive education style that can be highly evaluated.

Standard 2. Students

The University's admission policy is prescribed in accordance with the University's educational objectives and is made publicly available and known through the University website, application guidelines etc. Specifically, the selection of entrants is carried out appropriately in accordance with clear evaluation criteria based on a Checklist of Reasons for Application and Determination Rules, under a system whereby the Applicant Selection Committee determining whether or not an applicant will or will not be accepted and the President makes the final decision following deliberation by the Faculty Council.

Student numbers are appropriately secured in accordance with yearly enrollment quotas and total capacity.

Due to the University's special characteristic of providing online education only, a support system for learning and class instruction through collaboration between faculty and staff by way of support organizations such as the Class Support Center, Student Support Center, and System Support Center have been established to ensure that faculty and staff members respond to students' questions within

24 hours as a rule as part of fundamental guidelines, and this support system is functioning effectively.

As well as focusing on liberal arts education, the University is endeavoring to strengthen its efforts in the career design field as a subject group supporting social and professional independence. In addition, the University provides internship programs with SoftBank Corporation and other cooperating companies that enable students to gain work experience.

With the increase in student numbers, a Student Support Center has been established on the Fukuoka Campus in addition to that at the Tokyo Office, improving student support services.

Good point
○ From a situation where student enrolments fell short of yearly enrollment quotas up until the academic year 2015, the University has been constantly implementing a range of measures and the number of entrants has been steadily increasing, and this point can be highly evaluated.

Standard 3. Educational Curriculum

In accordance with the University's diploma policy, Skill Sets setting out attainment targets for each subject have been prescribed, and credits are awarded based on evaluation of students' achievement of the attainment targets. The University has also established Rules for Early Graduation, creating a system whereby those students who fulfill the necessary performance requirements may graduate early in three or three-and-a-half years, and some students are graduating early under this system.

A new Cloud Campus has been designed and constructed as a learning management system for use in operation of the Internet University. A curriculum policy is formulated so as to be consistent with the diploma policy expressing the quality and abilities to be achieved, and these are made publicly available and known through the University website.

Systematic curriculum has been formulated in accordance with the curriculum policy. Eight educational programs are operated within three courses, and subject curriculum charts have been formulated for each program.

Instructional design methods have been incorporated into the design and development of class content, and efforts are being made to further enhance educational quality. Although the University only provides learning through the internet, teaching methods are continually being adjusted and developed, such as the introduction of online debating classes.

Good points
○ The University's establishment of Skill Sets setting out attainment targets for all subjects in accordance with the University's diploma policy, and awarding of credits based on Skill Sets can be highly evaluated.
○ That the Cloud Campus learning management system received the Grand Prize of the second IMS Japan Award in November 2017 and that the University has been accredited as an LTI® (Learning Tool Interoperability®) tool provider can be highly evaluated.
○ The University's introduction of instructional design methods in the development of class content,

with specialist staff such as instructional designers assisting faculty members in charge of classes through consulting aimed at improving class content, and other systematic efforts to ensure the quality of educational content can be highly evaluated.

○ The University's efforts to analyze students' freely written comments on class questionnaires, compile a Compendium of Cyber University Teaching Tips Reflecting Students' Voices, distribute the compendium to faculty members and proactively utilize it to improve lessons, can be highly evaluated.

Standard 4. Faculty and Staff

In order to achieve its mission and goals, the University creates a structure for education and learning management with the cooperation of and in coordination with the Faculty Council and committees such as the University Steering Committee. Although there is need for improvement regarding the stipulation and notification of some important items related to education and learning for which it is necessary to hear the opinion of the Faculty Council, under the President's leadership Approval Rules and Division of Duties Tables have been created and decision-making authority and roles for each organizational unit have been established to enable appropriate functioning of the University's decision-making and education and learning management.

In addition to securing the number of full-time faculty required under the Standards for Establishment of Online Universities, the University allocates an appropriate number of faculty to specialist education and liberal arts education.

FD Expert Committee have been invigorated, and FD study groups and training workshops aimed at improving the quality and abilities of faculty, as well as Class Improvement Consulting by instructional designers, are being promoted.

Offices have been secured for full-time faculty at the Fukuoka Campus and Tokyo Office, and faculty are provided with access to the internet and multi-function devices, as well as work computers with the latest specifications.

With the renovation of the Fukuoka Campus and relocation of the Tokyo Office in 2019, the university is endeavoring to improve the research environment based on the results of Surveys of Attitudes Towards the Research Environment.

Standard 5. Management, Administration and Finance

The University complies with the SoftBank Group Charter prescribed by its parent company, SoftBank Group Corp., and the Board of Directors of Cyber University Inc.—as the organization equivalent to Board of Directors of the University's incorporated entity—has established Basic Policies for a System Ensuring Appropriate Business Conduct, making efforts to carry out operations with discipline and propriety.

Based on the Cyber University Mid-term Targets, the Business Activity Control Planning Office plays a central role in the University's continuous efforts to realize its mission and goals.

With regard to profits and losses for the University's independent business activities, profitability has been increasing since the academic year 2015 due to the increased income from tuition fees etc.

as the number of entrants has increased.

As the University is a for-profit university, accounting procedures are carried out appropriately in accordance with GAAP, the Companies Act, and Accounting Regulations based on business accounting principles.

Good point

○ The fact that the University, as a university providing online course only, has been able to continuously achieve stable profitability since the academic year 2015 with regard to profits and losses for independent university business activities through increased income from tuition fees etc. due to factors such as an increase in the number of entrants in recent years and an increase in the retention rate for existing students.

Standard 6. Internal Quality Assurance

Regulations regarding implementation of self-inspections and evaluations are clearly prescribed under Article 2 of the University Regulations. Specifically, the Business Activity Control Planning Office has been established as an organization for regularly implementing self-inspections and evaluations and has been positions as an organization under the direct jurisdiction of the President, heightening its effectiveness. Furthermore, to enable the Business Activity Control Planning Office to function as a center for internal quality assurance, the University has stipulated the office's authority in Division of Duties Tables and rules, etc., clarifying the responsibility system. All survey results—including those of class evaluation questionnaires conducted by FD Expert Committee— are collected and managed chronologically by the Business Activity Control Planning Office, whose functions also include IR (Institutional Research), and these results are utilized in preparing Inspection/Evaluation Results and Improvement Proposals/Suggestions for each item on the University's Improvement Task List. In addition, based on survey results and data analysis collected from each division, the Business Activity Control Planning Office implements the University's overall PDCA cycle for internal quality assurance while managing and supporting projects being conducted by individual divisions.

In summary, the University is a for-profit university utilizing the Fukuoka Asian Business Special Zone System. In accordance with the University's founding philosophy of "Offering many people willing to learn with an opportunity to acquire extensive, high-quality education without the constraints of location, time, individual environment or situation, and striving to nurture capable personnel who will form tomorrow's society", commuting to a physical university campus for the Department of IT and Business, Faculty of IT and Business, is currently not necessary as the University endeavors to nurture advanced IT experts by providing a diversity of learners with learning opportunities through online education utilizing media.

Note that with regard to the University's unique standards, the general comments on "Standard A. Social contribution and educational collaboration" should be referred to.

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

1. Providing educational opportunities completely online: supporting learning for improving self-value

2. Recurrent education for working adults in the IT field: nurturing advanced IT experts/enhancing educational curriculum and quality assurance

3. Cloud Campus concept: industry-university educational collaboration through cutting-edge e-learning systems