

SENDAI UNIVERSITY (仙台大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

Based on the University's founding principle of "Practical Science and Ingenuity based on Originality" and basic principle of "Sports for All", human resources development objectives and education and research objectives are defined simply and in concrete terms for each faculty, department, and graduate school and, in addition to being stated clearly in the University Regulations and Graduate School Regulations, are made available to the public through the University Guide and website.

Executives, faculty, and staff are all involved in the formulation of these objectives, with hearings of opinions conducted within the Faculty Council and other university organs, as well as the Board of Councilors playing an advisory role and the Board of Directors making decisions. Furthermore, to enable the University to respond to social changes, the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Implementation Committee inspects and evaluates the University's mission, goals, and educational objectives, endeavoring to achieve new objectives through measures such as increasing the number of departments. Furthermore, together with three policies (diploma, curriculum and admission policies) consistent with the University's mission, goals, and educational objectives, organizations for conducting educational and research activities have been created and an appropriate operational system has been put in place.

Good points

- The University can be highly evaluated for clearly stating its basic principle of "Sports for All," using this individuality and distinctive quality in its mission as the only university specializing in physical education and sports in the Tohoku region, and also for spreading this principle amongst students.
- The University's Sports and Health Sciences Research Practice Institute is working in close collaboration with the local community while being engaged in activities for multifacetedly maintaining and enhancing residents' health, and it can be highly evaluated for its distinctive role as an education and research institute conscious of the social role played by a physical education and sports university centered on "physical activity".

Standard 2. Students

In accordance with the admission policies of each department and graduate school, selection methods are prescribed for each entrance examination category and student admission procedures are carried out appropriately, ensuring that students are secured in an appropriate manner.

Relevant centers have been established in order to respond to students' diverse needs, and a system for supporting students, including students with disabilities, has been established through faculty and staff working in collaboration. In addition, the University provides a broad range of student support,

including career education, support for volunteer activities, a scholarship system, and support for maintaining physical and mental health through the Health Care Center. Furthermore, appropriate environmental improvements have been made to university facilities, including introducing barrier-free designs, maintaining a healthy learning environment, and providing spaces such as libraries where students can gather and undertake independent activities. Students' opinions and requests are also incorporated into these initiatives.

Good points

- The University can be highly evaluated for its success in maintaining a low dropout rate by appropriately handling students for whom dropping out, taking a leave of absence, or repeating a year of their course is a possibility through measures such as the Learning Support Committee, which is chaired by a faculty member who is a certified clinical psychologist, conducting individual interviews with students with notable class absences for the courses that they are taking.
- Internships under the Project to Create a Regional Revitalization-type Sports Society Model Based on an Academic Partnership with a Professional Baseball Team (FY2018 Private University Research Branding Project) are extremely effective in the formation of students' future career and can be highly evaluated.
- The University can be highly evaluated for its contribution to not only education and research related to sports medicine but also the maintenance and improvement of student athletes' competitiveness through the installation of a fully equipped athletic training (AT) room.
- The University can be highly evaluated for holding annual group discussions attended by both faculty and students on the theme of "The form taken by classes that realize deeply independent and interactive learning" as part of FD training workshops aimed at developing student-centered classes, and publishing the results of these discussions every year as the SUFD Report.

Standard 3. Educational Curriculum

Diploma policies for each faculty, department, and graduate school are prescribed based on the University's educational objectives; curriculum policies consistent with these diploma policies are defined and made known both within and outside the University through syllabuses and other media.

The educational curriculum is systematically organized, and performance evaluations are carried out appropriately based on standards for awarding credits, evaluating performance, and certifying graduation and completion. Systems have been created for providing support to students who have not acquired sufficient number of credits and enabling high-achieving students to undertake extra study for additional credit.

The University endeavors to improve class content and teaching methods, carrying out FD (Faculty Development) activities centered on committees and councils regarding effective implementation of liberal arts education and education improvement. In addition, assessment policies are classified into three levels, with inspections and evaluations of learning outcomes carried out in accordance with the University's three policies, and the results of these inspections and evaluations are made known to all faculty.

Good point

- With regard to English language education, the University can be highly evaluated for creating and using original textbooks incorporating many topics related to sports in order to provide class content in line with students' interests.

Standard 4. Faculty and Staff

Appropriate systems have been put in place to enable demonstration of leadership in the University's decision-making and education and learning management, such as the decentralization of authorities and clear definition of responsibilities, as well as the stipulation of rules on important matters regarding which the President needs to ask the Faculty Council and Graduate School Council for their opinions. Furthermore, staff organization, career ladder, and division of duties are clearly prescribed, with administration structured in such a way that faculty and staff are mutually involved in university operations. The University has established unique mechanisms for maintaining and improving this system, such as conducting SD (Staff Development) training workshops and providing young staff with opportunities to enroll in master's programs.

Continual efforts are being made to improve educational content and methods, with personnel assigned in accordance with the University's educational objectives and performance indicators for faculty clearly stipulated. Moreover, improvements to the educational and research environment as well as ethics education required for research are carried out appropriately, and in addition to its efforts to secure external funding—such as selection for participation in the FY2018 Private University Research Branding Project—the University endeavors to procure independent research funding and invigorate its research activities.

Good point

- The University can be highly evaluated for providing young staff with opportunities to enroll in master's programs as part of efforts to enhance staff quality.

Standard 5. Management, Administration and Finance

The University endeavors to maintain management discipline and integrity, with compliance with laws and regulations clearly stipulated in the University's articles of endowment, and items pertaining to organizational ethics and human rights clearly prescribed in the University rules. In addition, the Executive Committee facilitates communication between the Board of Directors and education and learning organizations, and ensures the everyday activities of the University's incorporated entity are carried out promptly, of which task are entrusted by the Board of Directors acting as the final decision-making body.

The role of the Chair of the Board of Directors—who is the representative of the University's incorporated entity—is clearly prescribed in the articles of endowment. The President and Vice Presidents are appointed as directors, and close cooperation and coordination is carried out between the University and its incorporated entity, with consideration given to balance between leadership

and bottom-up management.

The Board of Councilors appropriately performs its role as an advisory organ, while auditors also perform their auditing role appropriately, maintaining healthy financial operations in accordance with the University's med-term management plan.

Good point

- The University can be highly evaluated for its efforts to set a financial goal scenario and a financial limit scenario in its long-term financial plan and carry out operations so that the University's financial status falls between these two scenarios, stabilizing the University's financial structure.

Standard 6. Internal Quality Assurance

A system has been established whereby inspection items have been clearly prescribed and self-inspection and evaluation activities are carried with the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Implementation Committee working in cooperation with the University's internal executive division as well as the faculty, graduate school, and affiliated centers. In addition to each organization head setting and reviewing work targets for their respective organizations and duties, all faculty members set targets and record results for their research and educational activities, and these targets and their results are made known to all faculty and staff.

The IR Office provides support for the survey analysis activities of all university committees, providing data required by each organization as well as ascertaining the state of the business implementation of each administrative division and promoting a system of cooperation among divisions.

Under the above systems, a system for promoting internal quality assurance PDCA cycles is created while incorporating various external evaluations.

Good points

- The University's establishment of its Third Party Evaluation Committee in May 2018, thereby also incorporating the opinions of external higher education experts into the University's self-inspection and evaluation system, can be highly evaluated.
- The University can be highly evaluated for the fact that it started to utilize IR functions organically, such as the University's selection for participation in the Japan Sports Agency's FY2018 Project for Promoting the Advancement of University Sports, with the University's proposal formulated based on data from surveys conducted and data collected mainly by the IR division.

In summary, while its foundation is physical education, the University aims to nurture human resources capable of contributing to a diverse range of social activities and industries, and has established an appropriate governance system for realizing this objective. The University has also constructed a self-inspection and evaluation system for constantly brushing-up its preparedness for accepting students and educational and research environment, as well as the content of its education and research. In future, the University can be expected to construct even higher-level

assessment policies related to educational and research curriculum and involvement in society and expand its PDCA activities.

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

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

1. Advanced initiatives aimed at the invigoration and healthy management and operation of university sports
2. Empirical research based on the Project to Create a Regional Revitalization-type Sports Society Model Based on an Academic Partnership with a Professional Baseball Team selected as a FY2018 Private University Research Branding Project