

March 10, 2017

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2016 Kwansei Gakuin University Self-Assessment Results

We are pleased to release the Kwansei Gakuin University (KGU) self-assessment report for academic year 2016, in which we review our philosophies, goals, education and research targets, policies, etc., and evaluate the achievement status of the vision (goals) and action plans.

In our AY2016 self-assessment, we evaluated the achievement status of the vision (goals) and action plans set out in AY2015. However, the KGU executive office and relevant organizations separately established their goals in AY2015, resulting in inconsistency of the goals of the two parties that are supposed to take measures in an integrated manner. Therefore, we first reorganized their goals from a university-wide perspective before starting evaluation.

In AY2004, in order to reinforce the PDCA cycle toward spontaneous and self-sustaining development, Kwansei Gakuin (KG) created a New Self-assessment System incorporating the Certified Evaluation and Accreditation System, which requires KG to conduct self-assessment annually. In AY2006, KGU underwent the first Certified Evaluation and Accreditation by the Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) for its Self-assessment Report and was accredited as "meeting the standards of JUAA."

In AY2009, KG reviewed the evaluation items in line with the changes in the evaluation standards of JUAA, reset its goals, and started working on five-year goals toward AY2013. In AY2014, KG made a comprehensive report on the achievement status of the newly set five-year goals. In the intervening period, KGU underwent the second Certified Evaluation and Accreditation by JUAA and was accredited again as "meeting the standards of JUAA" in AY2013.

So far, our self-assessment efforts have won high recognition from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, JUAA, and other universities and institutions as a pioneering initiative in which we successfully utilized the PDCA cycle. In fact, we have been interviewed by some of these organizations on our self-assessment efforts. However, we encountered several challenges as well.

In response to such challenges, we sought to ensure consistency among different departments and schools by introducing a process of flexibly adapting their goals to changes in society and the environment and by sharing matters that need to be included in policies.

Our self-assessment in AY2015 and thereafter seeks to enhance the quality of our education and research. To that end, among other steps, we assure the quality of education that JUAA upholds as an "evaluation (basic evaluation) on whether or not the legal requirements common to all universities, including those prescribed in the School Education Act and the Standards for Establishment of Universities, are observed." We also

ensure that our internal quality assurance system works effectively as suggested by the direction of the third Certified Evaluation and Accreditation.

Also, we ensure that the viewpoints implied by the third Certified Evaluation and Accreditation and opinions from KGU and its schools and departments are incorporated into our self-assessment implementation methods. In so doing, we make sure that the PDCA cycle for our internal quality assurance mechanism proceeds successfully, thereby developing an even better self-assessment system.

Our future self-assessment efforts must lead to higher-level, more independent, and higher quality education and research.

Please contact our secretariat if you have any feedback or suggestions about our report (or its supporting documents).

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