

March 11, 2016

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## 2015 Kwansei Gakuin University Self-Assessment Results

We are pleased to release the Kwansei Gakuin University (KGU) self-assessment report for academic year 2015, in which we set out and confirm our philosophies, goals, education and research targets, policies etc., and formulate action plans.

In our AY2015 self-assessment, with the completion of our five-year efforts to achieve the goals set in AY2009, we formulated our vision (goals) and action plan for AY2016-2021.

In our goal-setting process, we systematically organized our philosophies, goals, educational and research targets, policies, etc. in line with the image of students we seek, our diploma policy, curriculum policy, and admission policy. We also set a policy to support extracurricular education with the understanding that extracurricular education plays an important role in promoting students' personal growth at university. These points stand out in our latest self-assessment. Also, as in our previous rounds of self-assessment, we received third-party evaluation by the evaluation expert committee (comprising members both from inside and outside KGU) as a step unique to KGU's self-assessment.

Moreover, as a new process for internal quality assurance, we started holding review sessions where the KGU executive office and deans of undergraduate and graduate schools share the goals of the undergraduate and graduate schools, action plans, backgrounds of said goals and plans, and challenges.

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 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 turned 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 a certain extent of consistency among different departments and schools by introducing processes of flexibly adapting their goals to changes of society and 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 a basic requirement and achievement standard. We also ensure that our internal quality assurance system works effectively as suggested by the direction of the third Certified Evaluation and Accreditation.

Our future self-assessment efforts must lead to higher-level, more independent, and higher quality education and research. The policies and goals that we have set in the current academic year will be the starting point of such endeavors.

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

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