

HEISEI COLLEGE OF MUSIC (平成音楽大学)

Evaluation summary

“Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.”

Briefly itemizing the school philosophy of “dissemination of music culture from Kyushu” and Article 2 of the school rules, the institution laid out four basic principles: “Search for truth of music art”; “Formation of character for highly creative people”; “Cultivation of human resources who can contribute to the development of musical culture in local communities”; and “Cultivation of human resources who can contribute to the development of welfare”. According to the above principles, it has defined the objectives for each department to provide education. The administrative director (principal) explained the school philosophy and basic principles to school staff and students taking advantage of various occasions, as well as publicizing them internally and externally through the website, student handbook, university brochure, PR brochures, etc. The mid-term business plan was decided by the board of directors in 2011, and continuously verified and improved by the board of directors and the faculty meeting.

“Standard 2. Learning and Teaching”

The institution developed three policies (i.e., diploma policy, curriculum policy, and admission policy) for each faculty and department according to its four basic principles, and implemented entrance examinations and baccalaureate degree programs.

The institution’s educational characteristics include small-group class instruction, individual guidance in skill practice, thorough student management to prevent students from dropping out or repeating a grade, collaboration and communication with parents as needed, and formation of a students' association consisting of students and all school staff. It has established a system to hear student opinions on the institution. The Community Center, built based on such opinions, served as a place where students, graduates and school staff can relax.

It is understandable that local single-faculty colleges have difficulty recruiting students, so it is expected that the institution will make efforts to improve the replenishment rate of student quotas in the music department.

“Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance”

The institution has developed rules for organizational ethics, environmental conservation, human rights and risk management, and disclosed its management information, including education and financial affairs, on the website. The administrative director, who doubles as the principal, made decisions as the chief executive of operations of the institution. Since 2011, the institution has strived to reduce personnel expenses that have accounted for a large proportion of expenditure, and to revitalize student recruitment activities to increase the replenishment rate of student quotas, student tuition and other fees. It applied for “Costs of Strategy Promotion on Future Management”, one of the ordinary expense subsidies for private universities, to the Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan and obtained approval for that subsidy. Since then, the board of directors has ensured appropriate financial management based on the management

improvement plan.

However, the institution has not undertaken reviews and improvements of internal rules in response to the revisions of the School Education Act, the Ordinance for Enforcement of the School Education Act, the Ordinance for Enforcement of the School Teacher's License Act, and the Accounting Standards for School Corporations, enforced in April 2016. Therefore, it is necessary to take prompt action.

“Standard 4. Self-inspection and Evaluation”

The institution established the “Self-inspection and Evaluation Committee” consisting of the principal (chairperson), the dean, department chairs, the secretary-general, the chief clerk, and the chief of general affairs, aiming to create a structure to collect various information internally. The committee conducted self-inspections and evaluations in accordance with the standards set forth by the Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation every year, and reported their results to the board of directors. These results were distributed to school staff by e-mail, but those publicized externally via the website were for 2016 only. As a result of self-inspections and evaluations, the institution developed a risk management manual as well as the curriculum and diploma policies for the Department of Music and Department of Childhood Education, which demonstrates that a PDCA cycle has worked well in the institution.

To sum up, the institution has provided baccalaureate degree programs responding to the changes of the times according to its school philosophy and educational philosophy, with the aim of fulfilling a role as the only college of music in the Kyushu region. It also has made significant contribution to local communities by promoting musical education for both children and adults, and their music performances. However, it has faced some problems regarding compliance with applicable laws and regulations on its operations, which forms the basis of social trust for its activities. It is necessary to make prompt improvements.

For details of “Standard A. Collaboration with Society”, which are set forth as the institution’s unique initiative based on its mission and objectives, please refer to the general remarks on the standard.