

## International Christian University Mutual Evaluation Results by the Japan University Accreditation Association

### I. Mutual Evaluation Results

The FY2000 Mutual Evaluation Committee released the results of its survey and recommended that certification for this university as it conforms to the appropriate university level and is making efforts to improve. The Board of Councilors and Board of Trustees unanimously approved the results.

### II. Advice / Recommendations

#### [1] General Comments

International Christian University celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1999. Since inception the university has proceeded as a liberal arts university with the 3 missions of Internationalism, Christianity, and Academics. The ideal and goal -- to educate people who have the ability and desire to serve for peace and search out the meaning of life on their own through a liberal arts education based on Christianity -- is clear. The fact that ICU has sought outside evaluation and acted on the advice given demonstrates the drive to fulfill these ideals/goals. Moreover, ICU's own initiatives stand out: for example, seeking out applicants from abroad and pointing out the direction of university education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century through the keyword GIIS (Global [view from the perspective of the earth], Instant [simultaneous multiple country classroom], Interactive [communication between students and faculty], Satisfaction [emphasis on student fulfillment]).

The following demonstrate that liberal arts education is being realized in undergraduate education at ICU: the application of measures within the entrance examination to determine problem-solving ability and the ability to study on one's own, the measurement of student guidance and education through the GPA system that has been used since the school's founding, the formation of a curriculum in which all subjects are freed from specific divisions, etc.

The Graduate School, too, is making efforts towards the realization of the 2

goals of advancing liberal arts education and deepening specialization within one's own field. However, given the conflict between these two goals, the declining number of graduate students and other factors, more effort appears necessary.

Finally, it is hoped that the results of the university's own self-evaluation process along with the results of this association's survey will be taken up across the whole university and at the organizational level and linked to the improvement of education and research.

## [2] The Evaluation of ICU's Self Study Report by the Japan University Accreditation Association

### I. Suggestions

#### ① Suggestions regarding the Strengths of the University

1. As to the undergraduate program at ICU, the university's high mission is clearly stated and its ultimate goal is well delineated i.e., "to foster an attitude of self-motivated study in students, have them develop their own curriculum, and help them be ready, upon graduation to make the efforts, toward what he/she sets out to become." Efforts to move towards achieving such results in practice are valued.
2. Concerning the graduate program, the report emphasizes the following two points: (1) advancing the liberal arts education, and (2) specialization within respective academic areas. This dual viewpoint, that is, specialized education on a liberal arts basis, is embodied in ICU's graduate program. The maintenance of this view and its realization in practice are valued.
3. The study of the screening/admission process of the applicants, the content of examinations, and public relations activities for the student recruiting is well conducted. Much valued are efforts that consider "not the amount of knowledge, but the problem-solving skills of the examinees and whether or not they are capable of conducting their self-motivated study as the admission criteria and that seek to reflect ICU's own educational policies in the entrance examination.
4. The GPA system through which the student advising and thus educational improvement are to be made, are valued.
5. The development of a curriculum based upon university policy that the courses

specific to a certain division should be liberated and made available even to students of other divisions, the establishment of various interdisciplinary programs, and the credit-granting service-learning courses including the volunteer activities, and the introduction of the interdivisional major systems, and other approaches that promote liberal arts education are also valued.

6. Meritorious attention should be paid to the ELP (English Language Program) and JLP (Japanese Language Program) for the promotion of ICU's bilingual education and the advancement of study abroad programs through student exchange agreements with 46 universities overseas and SEA (Study English Abroad) program with two host institutions overseas.
7. In the graduate program, various supports for the promotion of student research activities including the subsidies for their research presentations at the conferences are available. This is to be commended.
8. The faculty's office hours are announced in the syllabus and the students are encouraged to use the hours for the advices and consultation by the faculty for their study and campus life.
9. ICU's policy of international recruitment of faculty is unique in Japan and deserves a special mention.
10. The appointment of Christian faculty is regarded necessary in order to maintain ICU's original mission. The point is understood.
11. It is valued that for recruiting the faculty, ICU has made it a custom to set up a colloquium and/or a model-class offering during campus visit as an opportunity for the candidate(s) to demonstrate their teaching/research potential.
12. Available space per student for the classroom, the seminar meeting, and/or the students' self study areas are well provided for and this is found to be all the more so when compared with the major universities located in Tokyo metropolitan area. The total space of three campuses including Nasu and Karuizawa campuses, reaches 1.64 million square meters, large enough to provide the students with its high quality of educational and research environments.
13. Library facilities, the volume of book, and the students' frequent use of the library services are all superb and far above the average among the Japanese universities. The important contribution that the ICU library has made in the fulfillment of its educational mission merits mention. In particular, the Othmer Library opened in

commemorating ICU's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and, furnished with advanced digital information equipment, has been instrumental in the library services.

14. The teaching effectiveness survey by the students has been well conducted. Hearing student requests for the betterment of their campus life and further, the self-survey and evaluation activities taking place on a regular basis, shows good evidence of the comprehensive and deliberate efforts being made by the overall campus community.

## ② Suggestions regarding the Weaknesses of the University

1. The number of non-Japanese exchange students enrolled in the undergraduate program has been decreasing recently. As a university that emphasizes educational commitment to the international dimension, efforts need to be made to correct this downward spiral.
2. There is under-enrollment in the Master Program of the Division of Education (Educational Methods Major) at the Graduate School. Efforts to correct this situation are necessary. Moreover, there has been a decline in the enrollment numbers throughout the Graduate School. Measures to make the graduate school attractive and regain enrollment are needed.
3. Regarding the undergraduate program, it is reported that because of the large number of students seeking to enroll in general education courses in the Spring term, some students are unable to enroll. Counter measures, such as increasing the number of times the same course is offered in a year, need to be taken promptly.
4. Individual research allowances for full-time faculty ought to be increased.

## II. Recommendations

None

## III. Opinions

Below are the comments made for your reference by the individual members of the Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) Evaluation Committee.

1. Although the goal of training specialists (researchers) equipped with a broad intellectuality based upon the liberal arts education is put forward, what needs to be discussed further is just how this will be achieved in practice.
2. There has been a call for incorporating junior faculty, who are sensitive to new developments in their own fields, into graduate education. This includes having them participate as thesis advisors and readers. There is merit in examining this possibility as part of the plan to improve the graduate program at ICU.
3. Funding for the research projects of individual faculty members seems not enough. In order to partially address this problem, faculty members need to make more effort towards applying for outside, competitive, funding sources.
4. While there is, perhaps, currently no other choice but to continue the different tenure systems for Japanese and non-Japanese faculty, as the term-specific faculty appointment system is even now being introduced in Japan, it is hoped that the differences will be eliminated.

