

Re-review Results

Niigata Sangyo University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Niigata, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2020	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2021 – March.31.2025)	

Re-review Results for Niigata Sangyo University

Overview

With regard to Niigata Sangyo University, as serious issues in both the two areas of enrollment as well as administration and finance were recognized in the 2017 University Accreditation (Certified Evaluation and Accreditation) Results by the Association, we attached Areas of Serious Concern, and the University was found to satisfy the University Standards with an attached deadline of March 31, 2020 in consideration of the likelihood of improvements. Moreover, besides the aforementioned, we added four items as Suggestions for Improvement.

In tandem with this, Niigata Sangyo University newly formulated the Niigata Sangyo University Reform Plan II, and endeavored to make improvements while tending to its internal quality assurance system. In this Re-review, although some matters that were not sufficiently improved remained as a result of conducting a review in accordance with the University Standards at the time of the previous University Accreditation, we comprehensively evaluated the situation around improvements for the Areas of Serious Concern and found that the University satisfies the University Standards.

First, regarding enrollment with respect to the two areas in Areas of Serious Concern, the fact that the average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap in the (university-wide) Faculty of Economics and in both its departments (the Department of Economics and Business Administration and the Department of Cultural Economics) were low for the past five years and the ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap in the (university-wide) Faculty of Economics and its Department of Cultural Economics were also low was indicated. In response, besides such initiatives as endeavoring to raise its profile, securing enrollment from attached high schools and affiliated schools (correspondence high schools), enhancing entrance examinations for sports-based recommendations, and implementing entrance examinations overseas in order to secure foreign exchange students, the University also endeavored to enhance “Community-based Practical Learning,” which is a problem solving model of education incorporating fieldwork. As a result, when looking at the ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap for each year, the Department of Economics and Business Administration in the Faculty of Economics has successively secured enough students for 2019 and 2020. Moreover, although the situation of an unreached cap continues in the (university-wide) Faculty of Economics and its Department of Cultural Economics, the

University has been continuously securing more students than it had at the time of the University Accreditation. Therefore, we recognize that the average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap for the past five years in the (university-wide) Faculty of Economics and in its Department of Economics and Business have improved in 2020. Nevertheless, as both the ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap in the (university-wide) Faculty of Economics and its Department of Cultural Economics and the average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap for the past five years in its Department of Economics and Business are still low, we would like to see the University continue to endeavor in correcting its course. Note that, as it is considering integrated high school and university courses and is applying for approval of a highly unique correspondence education, we hope that the University steadily endeavors toward these initiatives.

With regard to administration and finance, as the ratio of the financial assets to the required reserve fund and the proportion of excess expenditures carried over to the next academic year (excess consumption expenditures carried over to the next academic year) to revenue from operational activities (imputed income) are trending downward, the fact that the University is to immediately improve the situation around its revenue and expenditures by promoting the reform measure that it holds, Niigata Sangyo University (Five-Year) Reform Plan 2016-2020, has been pointed out. In response, the University formulated the Niigata Sangyo University Reform Plan II 2018-2022 in 2018. Furthermore, under the guidance of the Management Consultation Center at the Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan, the University formulated the Hakusen Academy Management Improvement Plan 2019-2023 in July 2019, and we can say that it is suitably formulating a mid- to long-term fiscal plan.

With regard to financially-related ratios, the ratios of the difference between revenue and expenditures from operational activities for both the University division and the foundation as a whole have been decreasing year by year due to the improvement trend in faculty quota fulfillment. However, said ratio is still negative, and the personnel expenditure ratio continues to be high as well. Moreover, although the year on year decline in the ratio of the financial assets to the required reserve fund has been slowing down, from the fact that the declining trend continues and the ratio has been low, we cannot say that the financial footing needed to stably perform educational and research activities is sufficient. Therefore, we hope that the University makes further endeavors toward improving its revenue and expenditures by steadily executing the Hakusen Academy Management Improvement Plan.

Hereafter, considering the University has been endeavoring in new initiatives

toward financial improvement—such as applying for approval of a correspondence curriculum as previously mentioned—we look forward to those results.

With regard to acquiring external funds, the University makes accepting large contributions an important measure. However, hereafter, we hope that the University endeavors toward a variety of grant-in-aids—including Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research—and contracted research projects, and considers acquiring various sources of revenue.

Next, concerning the four items as Suggestions for Improvement for which we requested improvement reports, we can confirm the fact that improvements have been made for most items. Among which, with regard to internal quality assurance, the University revised its Policy for Internal Quality Assurance concerning the implementation of regular checks and reviews and the functionalization of internal quality assurance that was required. In addition to changing the checks and reviews cycle that was set for once every seven years to once every three years in accordance with the time of certified evaluation and accreditation, the University is endeavoring toward improvements such as clarifying the organization responsible for the promotion of internal quality assurance as the Conference of President, Vice-President, and Other Officers, and making arrangements for constantly and continuously endeavoring by establishing the Quality Assurance Assembly. Note that, with regard to the University-wide checks and reviews, the University has scheduled to implement it in 2021. However, from the fact that the assessment process and schedule are in an unclear state, we hope that the University immediately makes endeavors with regard to these in addition to suitably making improvements and progress based on checks and reviews and their results.

As described above, while we can say that the overall situation is generally suitable, there are still some issues requiring attention. Hereafter, we expect that the University will make its new framework for internal quality assurance fully functional and fulfill its mission to “foster human resources who proactively and strongly support the community and businesses” based on the spirit of its founding.

Suggestions for Improvement

Administration and Finance

- The personnel expenditure ratio is high, the ratios of the difference between revenue and expenditures from operational activities are still negative, and although the year-on-year decline in the ratio of the financial assets to the required reserve fund has been

slowing down, the declining trend continues and the ratio has been low. Therefore, we hope that the University makes further endeavors toward improving its revenue and expenditures by steadily executing the Hakusen Academy Management Improvement Plan.

Recommendation

Enrollment

- In 2020, the ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap in the (University-wide) Faculty of Economics was low at 0.89 and likewise in its Department of Cultural Economics at 0.70, and the average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap for the past five years was low at 0.77 in its Department of Economics and Business. Therefore, we would like to see the University continue to correct its course so that it thoroughly implements faculty student quotas.