



Ritsumeikan Style 2019

– Toward the AY 2019 Plenary Council –

Digest

June 2019

Beyond Borders

R About the Plenary Council

- The Plenary Council is a forum that brings together representatives of undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty and administrative staff, and the university authorities (Executive Board of Trustees) to discuss improvements to education, research, and student life, in accordance with the principle of self-government by all members of the Ritsumeikan University community.
- From 1948 to 1979 the Plenary Council met on an ad hoc basis in association with tuition fee proposals, but since 1979 it has been convened on a regular basis, usually once every four years. Recent Plenary Councils have been held in AY 2016 and AY 2018.
- The Plenary Council has reviewed the outcomes of education and student support activities, confirmed the directions to be taken in future reforms, and discussed tuition fees on the basis of those directions. The last Plenary Council, held in 2018, confirmed that these discussions would be carried over into 2019.
- Following the discussions at the 2018 Plenary Council, the university is now working on a program of academic reforms under the title “Learning Innovation” (Co-creation Policy).

Beyond Borders

2

R Issues for the 2019 Plenary Council

➤ Carrying on from the 2018 Plenary Council, discussions will focus on the following issues:

1. Enhancing curricular and extracurricular learning; advancing and giving concrete shape to the co-creation policy

- ① Enhancement of education in the formal curriculum
- ② Internationalization, inclusive student support, and promotion of diversity and inclusion
- ③ Enhancement of extracurricular learning

2. Improving the quality of campus environments

3. Academic enhancement of the graduate schools

- ① TA systems
- ② Enhancement of career path support systems
- ③ Development of research environments

4. Tuition policies for AY 2020 and 2021

Beyond Borders

3

R Discussions to date (1)

➤ The 2018 Plenary Council discussed and exchanged a Memorandum on the following issues.
(The full Memorandum can be viewed on the university website)

Enhancement of curricular learning

- Assess the effects of academic reforms
- Further promote FD (improvement of teaching methods)
- Develop classes that encourage self-directed learning
- Introduce learning advisory functions using manaba+R
- Consider ways to protect personal information following expansion of manaba+R functions
- Respond to student requests in liberal arts education

Advancement of International Student Support and Other Forms of Internationalization, Inclusive Student Support, and Diversity and Inclusion

- Expand the SSP (Student Success Program) to support smooth transition from senior high school to university
- Begin providing support through International Student Coordinators
- Expand English-medium classes and Japanese language support for international students
- Enhance campus life support for international students (in collaboration with local government and external organizations)
- Enhance advisory services for gender and sexuality issues
- Enhance support and English-language services for students with disabilities
- Expand financial aid scholarships and prepare for reforms aligned with national government’s new system to reduce the cost of higher education

Beyond Borders

4

R Discussions to date (2)

Enhancement of extracurricular learning

- Ensure all faculty members know how to use the Certificates of Participation in Competitive Events
- Confirm what guidance and assistance is to be given to students presenting Certificates of Participation in Competitive Events
- Confirm consultation points for safety of facilities and equipment used in extracurricular activities

Qualitative improvement of campus environments

- Continue holding campus discussion meetings toward improvement of dining environments
- Continue discussing campus-wide no-smoking policy with the Student Union
- Implement extended opening hours facilities in exam periods on a trial basis

Enhancement of graduate school education

- TA systems:
 - Institute measures to enable more graduate students to experience TA work
- Enhancement of career path support systems:
 - Further enhance measures funded under the Fourth-Phase Career Path Development Support Program and graduate school enhancement policies
 - Establish a new framework to expand the number of post-doctoral positions
- Development of the research environment:
 - Discuss and make improvements to alleviate the shortage of space in Kinugasa and OIC Research Commons, talking into account the distinctive features of each campus

Beyond Borders

5

R Progress on University Projects

Enhancement of education in the formal curriculum

- Added management functions to manaba+R
- Clarified content of liberal arts education reforms from AY 2020 and the positioning and learning outcomes of curricular subjects; established "Ritsumeikan subjects" incorporating active learning

Comprehensive learning and campus life support

- Enriched educational programs using educational strengthening budget
- Made inclusion of directions of out-of-class learning in the syllabus mandatory
- Increased number of SSP Coordinators across the three campuses
- Developed the activity environment for Orientation Conductors
- Launched an investigative project on support for sexual minorities
- Increased number of support coordinators for students with disabilities
- Expanded financial aid scholarships and began preparations for reforms aligned with national government's new system to reduce the cost of higher education

Global learning

- Deployed Beyond Borders Plaza across all three campuses
- Added an extra class to short-term study abroad programs
- Appointed two extra full-time Japanese language instructors

Enhancement of extracurricular learning, improvement of campus environments

- Revised format of Certificates of Participation in Competitive Events, raised awareness through Faculty Council meetings
- Prepared passive smoking prevention strategies in line with statutory amendments, strengthened ban on smoking by faculty/staff members on campus

Academic enhancement of the graduate schools

- Expanded doctoral dissertation publication subsidy; established Starting Assistant Professor / Starting Researcher systems
- Launched Cross-Creative Human Resource Development Program; re-applied for education ministry's 2019 Doctoral Program for World-leading Innovative & Smart Education

Beyond Borders

6

R Future Directions

➤ The university is planning the following initiatives for the second half of the Co-Creation Policy implementation period (AY 2021-2022).

Rendering learning outcomes visible

- Publish Learning and Growth Reports on an ongoing basis
- Correlate Learning and Growth Survey results and other survey data to formulate teaching approaches that raise students' motivation and awareness

Supporting learning and campus life

- Develop a comprehensive learning records system and provide learning advisory services that enable students to reflect on their own learning
- Explore possibilities for writing support in both Japanese and English
- Further enhance the SSP
- Develop a comprehensive student consultation system to cater for diverse students

International students and international exchange

- Develop new study abroad programs
- Further promote language learning

Enhancement of the graduate schools and research

- Communicate the attractions of graduate school education and boost internal enrollments
- Further expand career path support systems
- Promote improvements in graduate school education and research

Beyond Borders

7

R Tuition Policies for AY 2020 and AY 2021

➤ Three key issues impacting tuition policies

Government tightening of enrollment quotas, work-style reforms, advancement of co-creation policy

➤ No change will be made to standard tuition for undergraduate and graduate enrollees up to AY 2021: the current tuition revision formula will be applied

Tuition for new academic year = Base tuition x (1 + increase in consumer price index)

➤ Tuition for students enrolled in AY 2019 and prior will be as announced at the time of enrollment (no change)

➤ The Admission Fee will be reduced from 300,000 to 200,000 yen

➤ The special reduction for new students (160,000 yen) will be abolished

Reduction of 50,000 yen will be retained in the Department of Pharmacy, College of Pharmaceutical Sciences

➤ Tuition for AY 2020 enrollees is shown on p.12 of *Ritsumeikan Style*

(Based on tuition revision formula, applying consumer price index rise of 1.4% in 2018)

Beyond Borders

8