

President's Position Paper for 2017

Dear All Staff in Nanzan University,

I. Basic Position

Under the banner of “One Campus Many Skills,” the campus integration has been realized due to the work put in by the previous University president and his office, giving us “One Campus.” From this academic year, the challenge of giving substance to the “Many Skills” aspect will begin. That is to say, our becoming one campus will further enhance the quality of our education and research. I look forward to working on this matter with everyone who plays a role in our University.

When many people cooperate in order to achieve a goal, I recall the first epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians as described in the New Testament. It touches upon the ‘charisma’ with which we are all endowed, giving an explanation of the various gifts and abilities that people possess. It explains how the greater good will be served if everyone displays their own talents and abilities as they work together. For us, Paul’s words suggest, do they not, what we should be doing in the newly integrated campus?

In the next few years, I consider that we should etch the following words into our minds – ‘awareness’, ‘growth’ and ‘maturity’. The people who learn and work in a university, whether they be students, administrative workers or teaching staff, should first of all be aware of their own gifts and seek to use them to good effect. This will lead to our own personal growth. The process of reform or innovation is included within the meaning of the word ‘growth’. I would like the process of growth that will occur in each and every one of us to bring about the maturation of the campus in its entirety.

II. Priority Issues

1. Further Enhancement of Education Delivered under the Banner of “One Campus Many Skills”

Also related to our basic position, now that the “One Campus” part of “One Campus Many Skills” has been realized, I would like each and every person involved in Nanzan University to consider the meaning of “Many Skills” and how it will actually manifest itself. I would like all of our students to be self-directed in acquiring these skills.

There are several ways to acquire “Many Skills.” For example, in addition to learning as an individual, there is also the cooperative learning that takes place with friends teaching each other. The use of the likes of active learning will also be important in order to encourage such learning.

To ensure that such learning can occur smoothly both as a system and from an institutional viewpoint, we will provide functions that are in keeping with aspects that are constantly changing such as information technology and internationalization and, in a campus where human and material resources are put to even better effect, will enhance it as a place where students can engage in self-directed learning.

2. Effective Operation of the Quarter System

The quarter system is being introduced from this academic year. The introduction of this system is a fundamental reform aimed at further internationalizing the University and enhancing the quality of our education and research. Given that this is a significant

reform, which will contribute to the realization of various aspects of our future planning, at the preparatory stages we were fortunate that our teaching and administrative staff cooperated to the extent that they did. We are now employing a short-term intensive approach to classes, so in order to achieve our goals as a university, I request that you continue to review our approach so we can run the quarter system effectively. This should occur from a diverse range of perspectives from the micro-level of the learning and teaching that occurs in every class to the macro-level of campus-wide curriculum. For students to enjoy the merits of the quarter system, such as self-driven, active learning or the promotion of study abroad opportunities, while it is of course important for them to act in an independent manner, it is also essential that we enhance the University's educational environment. This can be done, for example, by establishing courses that involve internships or service learning, or by offering a range of study abroad programs. Please continue to consider and then actively implement appropriate programs or support policies through our faculties, departments, graduate schools, graduate programs and various administrative offices.

The quarter system must be beneficial for teaching staff carrying out research as well as for students, for example by making it easier to go on research leave by taking a quarter off. Here, I ask you all to keep on thinking of ways to take advantage of the quarter system with the balance between education and research firmly in mind.

3. Promoting Further Internationalization

As a university that espouses the fostering of internationalization, this will again be one of Nanzan University's priority issues this academic year. In keeping with our plan given in our "Vision for Internationalization in Nanzan University," we should push forward steadily to develop the type of borderless learning environment that will help achieve the goals cited in the "Vision for Internationalization in Nanzan University" formulated in 2015. The goals include enhancing our relationships with overseas universities with whom we have exchange agreements, accepting even more foreign students and increasing the number of our Japanese students who study abroad.

In order to promote the realization of our Vision for Internationalization, from this academic year what was previously the Center for International Education will have its functions strengthened and become the new Center for International Affairs. In addition to overseeing the dispatch of our students to overseas destinations and the system to accept foreign students into Nanzan University, a new international strategy function will be established. It will set up new programs, promote links with overseas universities and actively carry out promotional activities aimed at foreign universities and prospective foreign students.

In particular, this year I request that we further enhance and strengthen our system for accepting foreign students. In our faculties and graduate schools, please continue to actively look for ways to accept foreign students, such as the expansion of the facility for such students to sit entrance examinations before they arrive in Japan. When doing so, I request that you properly ascertain the current needs of foreign students in terms of coming to study in Japan, and by taking advantage of the brand we have established for Japanese language education, strive to further enhance the appeal and profile of our long-established Japanese culture and language education in the eyes of prospective foreign students.

Innovative ideas are also necessary to add further verve to the exchange between our foreign students in degree courses or Center for Japanese Studies students and our Japanese students. This academic year, the "Multi-Cultural Exchange Lounge" will be newly opened, so I hope that various international exchange events will be planned and carried out to further promote multi-cultural exchange. In our classes, we also need to further deepen the level of exchange with foreign students.

The International Course category was designed mainly in order to strengthen the English language ability of our Japanese students, but in addition to this I ask that you

look into how to make this into a system that further encourages intellectual exchange between Japanese students and their foreign counterparts.

III. Future Planning

1. Organizational Restructuring

The integration of our two campuses means that several of our existing organizations will be restructured. The Center for Information and Communication Technology has been in operation since the 2016 academic year whilst the Center for International Affairs, the Foreign Language Education Center, the Physical Education Center and the Health Center have all started from this April.

I request that each of these centers apply themselves steadily to their respective roles in order to enhance the quality of our education and research.

The Faculty of Global Liberal Studies, which was established this April, aims to foster human resources capable of cooperating with others to move proactively to understand, analyze and resolve problems that occur beyond national or regional borders.

In order to further enhance our education and research, I request that we continue to carry out our organizational restructuring based on a spirit of “unceasing self-reform.” At the moment, the restructuring of the departments in the Faculty of Science and Engineering and the parallel establishment of a Graduate School of Law alongside the Nanzan School of Law is being considered. The former is motivated by a desire to enhance the education delivered in the complex technical area required by modern *monozukuri* (the craft of making things), and the latter is in response to the demand for higher level legal education and research with doctoral studies in mind.

In addition, in order to firmly link campus integration with an improvement in our education and research, we need to consider measures to allow existing organizations that have been set up to deal with a diverse range of issues to operate in a more flexible and efficient manner. Please begin to review if existing meeting groups or committees may be able to be rearranged or combined.

2. Campus Facilities

Work on preparing our infrastructure for campus integration has steadily progressed, with Building S being completed in the 2015 academic year and the new cafeteria “Lien Café” opening in autumn of 2016. At the end of the 2016 academic year, Building Q, with its new shared-use research and classroom facilities also opened. We will continue to work on improving our campus infrastructure this academic year. To be specific, this June, construction will begin based upon Stage III & IV of the Nanzan University Nagoya Campus Facilities Plan (2017 to 2021). I request that everyone involved redouble their efforts to ensure that WiFi is available throughout the campus.

During Stages III and IV of the Plan, our goal is to create a borderless learning environment within a genuinely unified campus, one imbued with the message of “One Campus Many Skills,” where the fences between faculties and departments have been made lower. We will also look to deal with the issues of the aging of existing facilities, making our buildings earthquake resistant and the creation of an educational environment that takes full advantage of what ICT has to offer. To this end, carrying on the tradition established by the Raymond Architectural Design Office, we will press ahead with the maintenance and refurbishment of the seminar rooms and Learning Commons etc., the places where students spend time as well as enhancing the functions of existing classrooms and facilities.

In addition, in order to improve the safety and convenience of our campus, we will work to revamp the facilities located along on the main pathways within the campus and to enhance the level of universal access by increasing the number of elevators.

The Learning Commons already located in the Library as well as Buildings S and Q serve as places for intellectual communication on various levels within the University. Regardless of whether or not the activities are directly related to students' regular courses of studies, please encourage active use of these facilities by individuals or groups carrying out self-directed learning activities or activities that support these.

IV. Education and Research

1. Three Policies and the PDCA Cycle

Nanzan University formulated three policies (diploma policy, curriculum policy and admission policy) in the 2016 academic year, with the faculties, departments, graduate schools and graduate programs amending their existing policies to bring them into line with these. Please carry out the conferment of degrees, the delivery of classes based upon curriculum, robust enrolment screening and self-assessment and self-evaluation in accordance with these new policies. In the faculties, departments, graduate schools and graduate programs, please establish a PDCA cycle that is traced back to these three policies.

It is also necessary to appropriately apply the PDCA cycle in our research institutes and centers, as well as in the various related administrative offices. For important matters, in your self-assessment and self-evaluation report please mention what has been done from the discovery of issues through to what action is taken and review carried out.

2. Introduction of Active Learning and Assuring the Quality of our Education

In universities, it is important for students to think for themselves when learning and acting and to be able to develop their own standpoints and attitudes in order to identify and resolve the various problems that exist in society. Active learning provides one effective method towards this end. At the 2016 Nanzan University Symposium active learning was carried out as the main theme. Instructors should be aware of how active learning might be introduced in their courses in a way that matches the particular nature of the course. In the faculties and departments, keeping in mind the three policies, please select courses in which active learning is particularly effective, clearly stating in the syllabus the classes in which it is applied, and encouraging students to choose these courses.

In order to clearly identify what students gain through a university education and to assure the quality of that education it is also important to visualize the fruits of those studies. We plan to introduce a study portfolio to enable students to be able to properly understand the study process and what else is involved beyond the time spent in class.

Last year we carried out a review of the training of instructors in our faculties, departments, graduate schools and graduate programs. Amendments are planned to legislation such as the Education Personnel Certification Act so we must move swiftly in order to be able to adapt. I request that preparation for this be carried out in our faculties, departments, graduate schools and graduate programs.

3. Collaboration with Other Universities

Please continue to encourage links and collaboration with other universities.

In addition to continuing our deep and cooperative relationship with Sophia University, as typified by the Sophia-Nanzan Sports Festival, we will continue to press ahead with the "Japan- Latin America Student Mobility Program: Human Dignity and Harmonization in Migration and Coexistence." Through this initiative, in the 2016 academic year, in addition to the existing relationships we have with the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, and the Mexico Autonomous Institute of Technology (ITAM) we accepted students from University of the Andes in Colombia and University of Guanajuato with whom we

have established new links. In addition, we have accepted exchange students from Central and South America into the Center for Japanese Studies for approximately one month for Japanese language learning and internship experiences.

With the Toyota Technical Institute, we will continue the various types of collaboration that we have engaged in to date including credit transfer, interlibrary access, and the joint lecture series, but I request that you consider research exchange etc. that may lead to joint research projects.

We need to strengthen our links with foreign universities in order to realize our vision of internationalization. During the 2016 academic year, the Association of Institutions of Higher Education of the Russian Federation and Japan was established to further links with Russia, a country with which we did not possess any ties. Nanzan University was one of the founding members of the Association. We will continue to actively press ahead to enhance our links with universities in countries and regions where we do not have arrangements. At the same time, a memorandum of understanding regarding a double-degree system was exchanged with Purdue University Northwest during the 2016 academic year. On this basis, now please consider the specifics of how we can create a double-degree system.

In addition to adding value to the overseas study programs already established in our faculties, please strive to develop internship programs that take advantage of students' language ability, or service learning programs. On top of this, please consider specific initiatives designed for accepting foreign exchange students into our faculties and departments. For example, creating curriculum that allows students to take Japanese language education classes in the morning in the Center for Japanese Studies or the Foreign Language Education Center and then in the afternoon take subjects offered in the faculties or departments or General Education Courses will contribute to creating an educational environment conducive to promoting the acceptance of foreign students in all of our faculties and departments. Accepting research interns into our graduate schools from universities with which we have exchange arrangements is also worthy of consideration. Please also actively engage in international exchange at the teaching staff level.

We also need to maintain international links with Catholic educational institutions. In addition to the Association of Southeast and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU) Conference and the Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia (ACUCA) Conference, during the 2016 academic year our students also took part in the first Japan-Korea Student Exchange Program (Francisco Volunteer Camp), run by the Catholic University President's Council (CUPC). Aiming to develop them even further, please continue these initiatives with Catholic universities.

4. Research Ethics and Research Activities

In order for Nanzan University to be an excellent educational institution it must be an excellent research institution. Please have an awareness of what you are doing and have pride in your activities as a researcher. At Nanzan University we have formulated the Code of Conduct for Nanzan University Research Activities, the Nanzan University Ethical Guidelines for Conducting Research Involving Human Subjects, the Nanzan University Regulations Concerning Research Misconduct and the Guidelines for the Storage etc. of Research Data at Nanzan University. I request that everyone involved in research activities read through these documents again to ensure that we prevent improper conduct in our research activities and carry out our research based upon sound research ethics. Our researchers also need to undergo research ethics training at regular intervals. In the Guidelines for the Storage etc. of Research Data at Nanzan University, which were formulated in 2016, it has been determined that research data must be stored for ten years. With research activities comes social responsibility.

I request that all researchers apply for external funding such as Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research. Applying for competitive funding adds vitality to research activities

in the field in general and provides a good opportunity for the researcher to review his or her research and clarify research plans moving forward. The results of research activities supported by external funding also bring benefits to society. In order to encourage applications for competitive external funding, please continue to consider policies for allocating in-house subsidies in our faculties and graduate schools that are more related to applications for external subsidies.

5. Enhancing Support for Students

An appropriate level of support is required for all aspects of student life. With our motto of “*Hominis Dignitati*” (For Human Dignity), in a university that extols “universal access for students” in our Grand Design, it is important for us to provide support for students with disabilities. I request that the Health Center, which has strengthened its functions from this year, and our faculties and departments cooperate with the Academic Affairs Office and the Student Affairs Office and continue to provide students with appropriate support.

It is important that we provide suitable support for students who find themselves in economic difficulty. This year again, Nanzan University will continue to waive entrance and tuition fees up to the total amount due for those whose households have been affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and the Kumamoto Earthquake. Also, for students whose results have proven their enthusiasm towards their studies, working within our allocated budget, we will continue to offer economic support through appropriate scholarships.

V. Social Contribution and Links

1. Social Contribution

Please continue to actively return the fruits from your education and research to society. Since re-opening in October 2013 with a basic concept of being a universal museum, the Nanzan University Museum of Anthropology has received very positive feedback from the local community and the number of visitors continues to increase. The museum’s “touchable exhibits” have proven to be particularly popular, winning a prize in the 5th Japan Society for Exhibition Studies Awards in June 2016.

The “Let’s think about how we will be in the future” lectures that are held every summer for elementary school and junior high school pupils have now been running for seven years. Last year they were held with cooperation from 13 instructors from our faculties and attended by 208 elementary school pupils and 80 junior high school students. It shows signs of becoming a well-established event in the local community.

Social contribution driven by students is also important. For example, the “Summer Holiday Swimming Classes” run completely by the Swimming Club has become an annual event attracting more than 100 participants. I hope that this type of activity becomes more common and that Nanzan University students take all the opportunities they can to contribute to society.

2. Cooperation among Industry, Academia, and Government

Following the Nanzan University Policy to Strengthen Connections between Industry and Academia, please continue to work to improve connections between industry and academia. One thing, for example, for us to consider is the introduction of Project-Based Learning (PBL) in cooperation with companies, NGOs or NPOs. In the Faculty of Science and Engineering, projects involving links with other universities and corporations have been selected in the Education Network for Practical Information Technologies, with PBL being included in the curriculum as one course.

In recent years, the handling of research subsidies from institutions etc. related to the military or to national security has been debated in universities, but for everyone at our

University, I request that we adhere to the Nanzan University's Position on Military Research that was formulated in 2016.

3. Risk Management Contingency Plans for Disasters

We will continue to refine our risk management contingency plans based upon what was put in place several years ago, striving to ensure that our students and staff are kept safe and seeking to play a role as a center of operations in the event a disaster strikes.

VI. Entrance Examinations – Finding Employment

1. Entrance Examinations

The total number of applicants to sit entrance examinations for the 2017 academic year reached an all-time high of 26,073. This is up by 300 on the previous year's figure of 25,773. Those applicants sat the general entrance examination, the Zengaku Toitsu Nyushi (Unified Entrance Examination) (Individual Academic Ability type & Combined with the National Center Test type), and the National Center test, (first application period: 3 subjects & 5 subjects type, and second application period). As the result of our strategic public relations campaigns over the past few years and the full cooperation of everyone at Nanzan this is something to be very pleased about. Nevertheless, we must redouble these efforts knowing that student recruitment will become increasingly difficult as the population of 18-year-olds continues to decrease.

The system for accepting extra students was amended from the entrance examinations for the 2017 academic year. Please test this new system and improve it as required.

In recent years, there have been increased calls for entrance examinations to provide a multifaceted and comprehensive evaluation of a student from the three elements that make up academic ability (1. knowledge / skill 2. cognitive ability / judgment / powers of expression 3. independence / diversity / cooperation). In the Faculty of Global Liberal Studies the AO Admissions Examination is already being used and it has also been decided to introduce it to the Faculty of Foreign Studies. I request that other faculties' entrance examination systems that evaluate the above-mentioned three elements be considered including the likes of the AO Admissions Examination.

The introduction of external examinations that can evaluate the four skills of English (reading, listening, writing and speaking) has already occurred with examinations such as the Zengaku Toitsu Nyushi (Unified Entrance Examination), but I think we need to consider broadening our use of these.

In addition, from the standpoint of promoting the acceptance of foreign students, please look at ways of taking advantage of entrance examinations before arrival in Japan, or external examinations other than the AO Admissions Examination.

With regard to screening of admissions by recommendation from Catholic secondary schools and from within the Nanzan School Corporation component schools, in order to ensure that these entrance examination systems are used effectively we must press ahead to consult with the relevant organizations and review accordingly.

The declining number of applicants at postgraduate level is a problem for us. Including carrying out public relations activities, I request that each of our graduate schools now take time to review strategies appropriate for attracting postgraduate students.

In the mid-term, we must consider how to respond to changes in the university entrance system. Please begin to consider how we might make use of the new tests that will be introduced with the Center Tests being abolished.

2. Finding Employment

In the 2016 academic year, the jobs-to-applicants ratio for university graduates was at

a high level as it was in 2015, showing a trend toward improvement in job opportunities. With these circumstances in mind, once again this year, please strive to achieve a 100 percent job-placement rate for our graduates. To that end, in order to create an even more effective Career Support Office now that the campuses have been integrated, please continue to work to strengthen the links connecting the Career Support Committee, the Job-Search Committee and the various faculties and departments.

VII. Public Relations

Nanzan University has seen major changes this academic year with the campus integration, the establishment of the Faculty of Global Liberal Studies and the introduction of the quarter system. Our public relations activities from now need to actively focus on informing people of these new aspects of Nanzan University. In particular, the various open campus sessions serve as an important opportunity to provide information about entrance examinations. Once again, this year I request your continued cooperation on this front.

In order to further increase the number of foreign students, we need to strengthen our public relations activities directed at the overseas market. Please look to do so by improving efforts in areas that have not been sufficiently covered to date, for example by creating materials to be distributed in a range of languages and publicizing the unique features of our faculties and graduate schools or information about the entrance examinations for foreign students.

With the population of 18-year-olds declining, in keeping with the changes in the environment that universities face, we must review the results of our public relations strategy and press ahead with pro-active and strategic public relations activities.

As I wrote at the start of this position paper, I myself will etch the following words into my mind as I carry out my duties: “awareness, growth and maturity.” I ask that everyone forges ahead with their work making the most of the gifts with which we are all endowed.



Yoshifumi TORISU
President
Nanzan University