

Judgement Cancellation to the University Accreditation Results for Tokyo Medical University in Academic year 2017

In order to develop in a more individual manner, universities in Japan are expected to clarify their policies on admission, curriculum, and degree awarding, and to systematically evolve university education in accordance with these policies to make them effective. In particular, university entrance examinations, which are the point of contact between society and universities, should be conducted in a manner that ensures fairness. Universities are also expected to fulfill their accountability to society by periodically examining whether their entrance examinations are administered properly in accordance with their admission policies and by publicizing the results. Nevertheless, the recently revealed irregularities in the entrance examination of Tokyo Medical University are a grave issue and are extremely regrettable.

In academic year 2017, the Japan University Accreditation Association conducted an evaluation of Tokyo Medical University, and as a result recognized the institution as “accredited.” However, your university was found to have problem with the fairness of your medical school entrance examinations. In order to fulfill its responsibilities as an accreditation organization aimed at improving university quality and assuring the quality to society, the Japan University Accreditation Association has decided to once again consider the validity of the University Accreditation results for your university by conducting a review covering the three relevant University Standards out of ten, namely, “Standard 5: Student Enrollment,” “Standard 9: Management,” and “Standard 10: Internal Quality Assurance.”

A research subcommittee, established for this examination under the University Accreditation Committee, reviewed the report on the circumstances of this problem and various other materials submitted by your university, and held hearings with the relevant parties in your university on December 2, 2018.

The review revealed that your university is not organized to the extent that it is capable of checking on and assessing its own activities to implement improvement or reform because (1) with regard to the item of “Student Enrollment,” it is not confirmed that the fair and proper student enrollment is conducted in accordance with the admission policies required by the relevant University Standards; (2) with regard to the item of “Management,” a democratic and effective university decision-making process has not been ensured, and it cannot be confirmed that appropriate and fair administration is conducted; and (3) with regard to “Internal Quality Assurance,” the description in the Self-Evaluation Report does not match the facts, and self-check and self-evaluation are not implemented properly.

As the result of the review, the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Japan University Accreditation Association (held on January 31, 2019) judged that these conditions fall short of the University Standards, and accordingly, cancelled your previous accreditation result and changed it from “accredited” in Academic year 2017 to “not accredited.”