

Blueprint of the New Graduate University

新大学院大学の青写真

July 30, 2008

The Board of Governors

The Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Promotion Corporation

独立行政法人 沖縄科学技術研究基盤整備機構 運営委員会

Blueprint of the New Graduate University

The Board of Governors (BOG) discussed major issues of the future graduate university, or the “blueprint.” Points on which the Board members agreed are summarized as followings.

【General Issues】

- * Some parts of the institutional design will be stipulated in the necessary legislation, while the others especially academic issues basically will not be incorporated in the legislation.

【Institutional Issues】

1. Objectives of the graduate university

- * The objectives are to conduct outstanding research and education in science and technology, thus contributing to the self-sustaining development of Okinawa, to the academic advancement in science and technology and to the progress of social economy in the world. These objectives embody the following concepts.

Best in the World

Flexible

International

Global Networking

Collaboration with Industry

In the establishment of the university, these objectives should be respected.

2. Name of the graduate university

- * The English name of the graduate university could be kept same as the current one; “Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology” (OIST), possibly with a subtitle “International Graduate University.”

3. Institutional status of the graduate university

- * With respect to the legal status of the graduate university, from the perspective of respecting the autonomy and the management flexibility, the graduate university should be established as a “special school corporation,” which is regarded as a new type of university for Japan.

4. Administrative structure of the new corporation

- * As the governing body of the graduate university, the Board of Directors (Riji-kai) is the highest decision-making body of the institution.
- * The role of the Board of Directors is distinct from that of the President, who is the chief executive officer. The Board of Directors makes decisions on important issues, including appointment and dismissal of the President and changing the by-laws of the corporation.

5. Governmental Support and Necessary Checking Mechanisms

- * High-level of government funding will be indispensable for a long period of time to support the graduate university to become one of the best-in-the-world, which contributes to promotion of Okinawa and academic advancement of science and technology in the world. It is requested to the Government, therefore, to consider a special mechanism under which substantial government subsidies will be provided.
- * BOG recognizes the need for mechanisms for accountability and transparency, corresponding to the high-level of financial support by the Government to secure efficient and effective use of taxpayers' money.
- * It is requested to the Government to carefully design these mechanisms so that the autonomy, the management flexibility, and the academic freedom will not be impaired.

6. Establishment of the new corporation

- * Establishing committee members need to be appointed by the Minister in order to smoothly establish the new school corporation. For the purpose of continuity between the OIST PC and the new corporation, the members of the OIST PC BOG should largely constitute the members.

7. Search for the President

- * Search for the candidate for President of the graduate university has to be started at once.
- * The President shall be selected from the international academic community.

【Academic Issues】

8. Educational and research programs

- * The OIST graduate education and research program should be cross-disciplinary and aimed at being the leading edge, including Life Science, Physical Science and Applied Science.

9. Educational and research organization

- * On the premise that the university will be opened as a degree granting institution at the time when OIST will have grown to about 50 PIs, one “kenkyuka” (or graduate school) with approximately four “senko” (or majors) will be set up at the time of establishment.
- * The ideal size ultimately pursued by the university in the long term is around 300 PIs , with graduate schools and majors to be determined
- * Tenure and retirement of the faculty members will continue to be discussed.

10. Academic programs

- * Doctoral program.
- * The degrees conferred will be Ph.D.
- * Basic philosophy of curriculum compilation, required number of credits, and outline of courses will continue to be discussed.

11. Recruitment of students

- * Considering seasons of admission in other countries, students may be able to enroll biannually in April and September. Review and selection of applicants for admission, however, should be done once a year from a single applicant pool to maintain uniform quality in the students.

12. Collaboration with other research institutions

- * Modalities of collaborations with other institutions will continue to be discussed.

13. Others

- * English is the official language.
- * The university aims to have at least half of the faculty and students to be non-Japanese.

Procedures necessary to open the graduate university

* BOG considers it necessary to start receiving students from September 2010.

Deliberation on the blueprint of the graduate university; both institutional issues and academic issues



Next Medium-term Objectives (FY2009-FY2011) by the competent ministers

Medium-term Plan (FY2009-FY2011) by the OIST PC

Drafting the new law by the Cabinet

Deliberation by the Diet



Appointment of the establishing committee members and preparation of the new school corporation's implementation

- Bylaws of the corporation
- Name and objectives of the graduate university
- Definition of the graduate school ("kenkyuka") and majors ("senko")
- Academic programs
- Selection of the members of the board of directors
- Selection of the president, the vice president(s), and the dean(s)
- Specification of list of faculty members



Submission of application for the establishment of the school corporation and the graduate university (in March every year)



Examination by Council for Establishment of University/School Corporation at MEXT (around 7 months)



Approval by the MEXT (in October every year)



Preparation of the opening
(the first board meeting, recruitment of students etc.)



Opening of the graduate university

At least 1 year

Issues to be examined

- * Some parts of the blueprint of the graduate university will be incorporated in the next medium-term objectives and the medium-term plan of the OIST PC starting from the fiscal year 2009.
- * Since it will be extremely difficult to build international reputation in a short period, longtime commitment of the Government will be essential and, in designing the special funding mechanism, progress toward an internationally renowned institution should be taken into consideration.
- * Efforts to obtain external revenue including competitive grants for securing some degree of self-support of the corporation will need to be made.
- * Mechanisms for accountability and transparency would include the following perspective.
 - The “control of public authority” as stipulated by Article 89 of the Constitution regarding subsidies to private school.
 - Securing proper implementation of the program with governmental funding.
(e.g., examining the operation plans and the result of activities, requesting reports and taking corrective measures, disclosure of financial statements, external audits, appointment of the auditors, etc.)
 - Contributing to the promotion of self-sustaining development of Okinawa as well as advancement of science and technology
(e.g., the liaison meeting between the government and the corporation)
- * Establishing members would include some persons in addition to the BOG members.
- * Methods of succession of business, assets, employees etc from the OIST PC to the new corporation will be provided by the legislation.
- * Actual size at each phase of development should be considered taking account of progress of recruiting activities and status of international reputation of the institution including securing competitive research grants.
- * The need for development of a cooperative relationship in areas of mutual interest with University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa.