

Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2023

Venue: Green Commons J101

Members: President Yoneyama, Alumni Board Members and Chapter Leaders

APU Executives: OSAWA Yoshiki, ASANO Akito

Presidents Office: Kuriyama, Sato, Kawashima, Samano. Alumni secretariat: Hsiung

Opening by incoming President Yoneyama

- ☐ Outlines his vision for the future of APU.
- ☐ We think alumni can change the world, but we think APU as a university also needs to be an agent to change the world.
- ☐ Together we want to solve world issues (conflicts, etc.)
- ☐ Wants to extend the scope of the “global” concept that is in place at APU to further encompass diversity and inclusion.
- ☐ Diversity leads to empowerment and innovation.

3 Big Targets:

- 1) Study D&I – pursue diversity and inclusion (education, research). Expand the know-how of APU.
- 2) Lifelong learner
- 3) Extend the roles & functions of university (social impact)

D&I

- ☐ APU’s Center of Inclusive Leadership
- ☐ Example: Training session provided to Panasonic (who have international employees)
- ☐ Thinking about companies who also balance D&I

Life-Long Learner

- ☐ In the past – traditional student (enroll from 18 years old, graduate in 4 years)
- ☐ In the future – we want to accommodate all learners. Example: someone wants to study a specialized field, someone wants to study later in life.
- ☐ Consider offering “micro-credentials.”
- ☐ Expand access to APU’s education.
- ☐ Example – APU transitioned well to online education during corona. International students took classes online worldwide.
- ☐ APU also has campus in Tokyo, offices worldwide – thinking how to make use of this to give people access to an APU education.

- How to become a university of the next generation?
- Test field (provided for companies/research surveys) – can become a source of revenue for APU.

Alumni (over 20,000 worldwide) – we would like to use their connections, experiences and capabilities. Incorporate this when companies/other stakeholders approach APU with an issue or problem they have.

Next month/end of January there will be a public presentation:

Kyushu Institute of Technology and Iizuka City (Fukuoka) – will create a collaborative agreement with APU to solve community challenges.

APU students are requesting more science/technology STEM education, so we can make use of this collaboration. On the other hand, the Kyushu Institute of Technology can benefit from APU's diversity and experience in solving social issues.

Beppu City collaboration – to build a disability-inclusive city

Specially Appointed Vice Presidents –

APU will recruit a current student and a high school student to act as a special vice president to help achieve the APU vision.

New APU Vice Presidents –

1)Hiroyuki Shinoda – from APU, Director of Research Department

Will be Vice President for Academic Affairs.

2)Yoshifumi Okamura – Vice President of International Strategy

History as a diplomat.

APU has already achieved a 50/50 international to domestic student ratio, 50/50 international faculty and students from 150 countries, which is a great accomplishment.

(END of Opening from President Yoneyama)

(START Q&A session)

President Yoneyama shared the idea to offer post-grad certificates to APU alumni.

Vice-President Director-General ASANO: discussed need for supporting careers of alumni. Some universities' career offices always provide support to alumni regardless of graduation year.

Morse's question – how much support do alumni have from APU?

Can we also have a Vice President elected from alumni? Alumni are a big stakeholder in APU.

President Yoneyama would like to grant more opportunities for all faculty, regardless of level/experience, to have administration experience at APU.

Need to think more about how alumni will be incorporated to APU.

The new specially appointed VP system/ high school student vice president is more symbolic. Alumni and APU can think of a good way to collaborate together.

Yafu- What is the timeline of these plans/vision from APU?

President Yoneyama discussed the need to encourage Japanese companies to be more open and receive talents from APU. Need to provide training sessions for executives of companies.

About the timeline – need to discuss internally, need more time to confirm.

APU wants to change companies' way of thinking about international staff.

How to attract people to Japanese companies? (perspective is that their appeal is on the decline)
Less than half of international students seek a job in Japan now. There is a sense of crisis. Career support for life is important, so APU is currently looking into APU Career office and their data about finding jobs.

Director-General of the APU Secretariat OSAWA Yoshiki: APU alumni are the treasure of APU, but we need to improve the connection from the university side.

(Celine) Idea – can APU have a Japanese language school? To help them transition to APU and up their Japanese skills. Students also need to improve practical skills (IT/STEM), so recognized the importance of APU's collaboration with the Kyushu Institute of Technology.

The Vice President representative (specially appointed) is like an advanced version of Student Voice Project. Difficult to define who is the APU student representative.

(Miho) Concern about APU's presence abroad – need to increase presence.

Would like to offer internships to students. If we could have a database/system we can make use of the resources of APU for their careers.

(ASANO) We have admissions offices abroad (Vietnam, etc.). Tokyo Office has many networks, but it is not well-known in APU. But we do have a system we are developing.