

February 13, 2019

Head of School Comment on 2018-2019 ACS WASC Annual Report

The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) is one of the six regional accrediting agencies in the United States. They work closely with the Office of Overseas Schools under the US Department of State. ACS WASC provides assistance to schools worldwide, primarily in California, Hawaii, Guam, Asia and the Pacific region.

The Osaka International School of Kwansei Gakuin (OIS) completed its fourth accreditation cycle in June of 2018. The cycle culminated with a joint visit of officials from ACS WASC and three curricular programs of the International Baccalaureate in February 2018. On May 11, 2018, ACS WASC decided to grant Five-Year Accreditation Status with a Mid-Cycle Visit through June 30, 2023. ACS WASC Commission Chairperson, Mr. Stephen Cathers wrote "The Commission looks forward to OIS's anticipated success and continuous improvement" in the fifth accreditation cycle. The Mid-Cycle Visit will take place in the autumn trimester of the 2020-2021 school year.

Starting a new accreditation cycle means we are initiating our school-wide OIS Action Plan (2018-2023). The action plan fits in with Kwansei Gakuin's Three-Year Operational Objectives (2019-2021) plan. The seven focus areas featured in the action plan are as follows:

- Facilities (reflect our goals and fees)
- Resources (budget transparency)
- Assessment (OIS model)
- Learning Support (comprehensive system for all students)
- Collaboration (shared vision of teaching and learning)
- Enrollment (300 student population K-12)
- Personnel (recruitment and professional development)

A requirement from WASC is the annual progress report. The report demonstrates our outstanding academic achievement. Highlights to consider are the new food service, developing a K-12 comprehensive student well-being program and more non-IB professional development with the Harvard University Project Zero Cultures of Thinking online class with a large group of OIS faculty.

Looking towards 2019-2020, a big push for increasing enrollment, especially in the elementary and Diploma Programme will be a priority for the new leadership in September.

William Kralovec, Head of School