

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Presidential Candidate Selection Committee

Date/Time : Friday, November 21, 2025 18:00 ~19:01
Place : Conference Room No.5, 3rd Floor, APU Main Administration Building (attendance also via Zoom)

Attendees:

Presidential Candidate Selection Committee:

- Chairperson: ASANO Akito (Vice-President, Executive Trustee)
Members: CHEN Ching-Chang (Professor, College of Asia Pacific Studies)
VYAS Utpal (Associate Professor, College of Asia Pacific Studies)
YOO Bosul (Associate Professor, College of International Management)
FUKUYAMA Kimihiro (Associate Professor, College of International Management)
YOTSUMOTO Yukio (Professor, College of Sustainability and Tourism)
YAMANE Tomomi (Associate Professor, College of Sustainability and Tourism)
JUNG Jonghee (Associate Professor, Center for Language Education)
TSURUHARA Toshiyasu (Associate Professor, Education Development and Learning Support Center)

HINO Satoshi (Deputy Director)
KONGO Rie (Assistant Manager, Outreach and Research Office)
TERAI Toshihiro (Assistant Manager, Outreach and Research Office)
PARK Seungwoo (Assistant Manager, Academic Office)
MATSUGU Junichi (Alumnus)
UWINEZA Celine (Alumna)
ABDULLAH Junaid (Alumnus)
JHA Ashmi (APU Student Future Visionary Vice President)
ARAMAKI Junko (Domestic Student Supporters' Association)

Presidential Candidate Selection Control Board:

- Chairperson: KIKKAWA Takuro
Members: ACKARADEJRUANGSRI Pajaree
MIYAHARA Kumi

Secretariat: INOUE Chikako, FUJIWARA Masato, KOZURU Kyoko (Office of Institutional Planning)

* Underline: Absentees

(Members: 18, members in attendance: 14, quorum established)

(The signatories of the minutes: CHEN Ching-Chang, VYAS Utpal)

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Agenda

1. Greetings from the Chairperson, introduction of members

Chairperson ASANO delivered opening remarks, followed by introductions of the Selection Committee and Control Board members.

2. Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Presidential Candidate Selection Regulations

Chairperson ASANO explained the key points of the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Presidential Candidate Selection Regulations. It was noted that the primary role of the Selection Committee is to select multiple presidential “candidates” and recommend them to the Chancellor. The current committee composition was highlighted,

particularly the addition of representatives of current students and parents. A new provision regarding the replacement of committee members in the event of a vacancy was also introduced. It was confirmed that the committee has a defined quorum and that the holding of public hearings is mandatory during the drafting of the application guidelines. Regulations regarding the committee's role and the disclosure of meeting content were also confirmed.

3. Regarding the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Presidential Candidate Selection Committee Summary of Activities AY2022-2023

Chairperson ASANO provided a summary of the previous selection process conducted from 2022 to 2023. The committee reviewed the outcomes of the previous process (committee activities, public hearings, and open call), the use of a search firm, and a comparison of the previous and current committee compositions. The committee's activities and the roles of its members were explained. The target schedule for the upcoming selection process was shared, with the goal of finalizing the decision at the September 2026 Board of Trustees meeting. Reports were presented on the previous open call results and the diversity of applicants. Two key discussion points were shared: the handling of academic degrees and the standardization of application documents, as well as considerations for applicants. Specific proposals were made regarding the implementation of public hearings and methods for information sharing related to the application guidelines.

4. Future Schedule

Chairperson ASANO presented a proposed schedule for future committee meetings, noting that the timeline through the end of the year would be tight. The committee's activity plan from the open call period through to the recommendation of candidates was explained. The process from the final candidate recommendation to the selection of the next president was also outlined, and it was noted that the proposed schedule allows for some flexibility.

5. Discussion Points for the Next Committee Meeting: Regarding the Previous Presidential Candidate Application Guidelines (Excerpt)

Chairperson ASANO introduced the main topics for discussion at the next (2nd) committee meeting, including a review of the previous application guidelines (excerpt). Committee members were asked to review the distributed materials in advance and prepare their thoughts on the roles and qualities expected of the next president from 2027 onward. Additionally, members were requested to cooperate in discussions regarding the format and implementation of the upcoming public hearing.

6. Regarding the 3rd meeting of the Presidential Candidate Selection Committee

Chairperson ASANO proposed holding the 3rd committee meeting between late December and early January, during which the finalization of the application guidelines and decisions on the public hearing format and schedule would take place. Given that December 24–25 is expected to be the latest feasible date for committee activities within the year, it was suggested that revisions based on the 2nd meeting's discussions may be finalized via email deliberation if necessary.

7. Q&A session, exchange of ideas

- VYAS: Why was the number of female applicants so low in the previous open call? Could this be related to the selection criteria?
- ASANO: To be honest, the exact reason is unclear at this time. However, we recognize the need to enhance our outreach efforts to encourage more female applicants in the upcoming open call.
- PARK: Regarding the point where it is clearly stated that the desired qualities and qualifications of the President include possessing a Master's degree, could you please explain the background of this,

including what kind of processes were gone through and what kind of opinions were expressed in the previous selection process that led to the Master's degree requirement being explicitly stated?

ASANO: As this overlaps with topics to be discussed in the next committee meeting, I will refrain from going into detail. However, as outlined in Ref.④, Section 2, the listed qualifications represent the general qualities expected of a university president and will be evaluated comprehensively through document screening and interviews. Specifically, it is stated that candidates should either hold a doctoral degree, have completed a doctoral program, or, in the case of those with significant experience in international organizations or corporations, possess at least a master's degree. While this wording may give the impression that holding a master's degree or higher is mandatory, the preceding statement clarifies that a comprehensive evaluation will be conducted. Therefore, holding a doctoral or master's degree is not an absolute requirement. This interpretation was confirmed during the previous selection process and should be understood as such.