

Press Release

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KCUE Announces the Results of the 2024 University Presidents Survey (II)

University Innovation and the Direction of Change in Higher Education in the AI Era

- The Korean Council for University Education (KCUE) announced the results of the analysis of the 'KCUE University Presidents Survey (II)', conducted in conjunction with the 2024 KCUE Summer University Presidents Seminar.
- The survey was conducted from May 30 (Thursday) to June 10 (Monday) among the presidents of 190 member universities. A total of 131 university presidents (response rate: 68.9%) participated in the survey.
 - * Due to the nature of the survey questions, 7 special universities were excluded from the survey (Excluded: Korea Military Academy, Korea Naval Academy, Korea Air Force Academy, Korea Armed Forces Nursing Academy, Korean National Police University, University of Traditional Korean Culture, Korea National Open University).
- The key findings of the University Presidents Survey are as follows:

▶ Key Areas of Interest for University Presidents

- The survey found that due to long-term tuition regulations, including tuition freezes and reductions, as well as the sharp decline in the school-age population, the greatest area of concern was **'financial support programs (government, local governments, etc.)'**. The next highest concerns were **'freshman recruitment and enrollment'** (2nd), **'attracting and educating international students'** (3rd), and **'maintaining enrollment of current students'** (5th). The main focus of these concerns was on the financial crisis facing universities and student enrollment. In the 2023 KCUE University Presidents Survey, the top two rankings remained the same without any changes.

► **Top Priorities for University Innovation**

- The top priority was **'restructuring and improving the curriculum system'** (37 universities, 28.2%). The second most common response was **'removing barriers between majors and establishing an interdisciplinary curriculum system'** (24 universities, 18.3%), followed by **'easing university-related regulations'** (21 universities, 16.0%) in third place.
- Regarding the key factors needed to successfully carry out the top three priorities for university innovation, common responses included **'responding to social changes,' 'enhancing communication and building consensus among members,' 'strengthening autonomy in university operations,' and 'securing stable financial support'.**

► **The Impact of Generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT) on the Future of University Society**

- The majority of university presidents who responded to the survey were optimistic, believing that generative AI will have a **positive impact on the future of university society (109 universities, 83.2%).**
- **Only 30 universities (22.9%) have established official policies (such as guidelines) regarding generative AI and are currently applying and adopting them.** The survey indicates that most universities have not yet developed specific policies for generative AI.

► **Current Status of AI Utilization in Universities**

- The survey on how universities are utilizing AI (including generative AI) found that the most common applications were **'offering courses related to generative AI' (58 universities, 44.3%),** followed by **'chatbots' (54 universities, 41.2%),** and **'research and data analysis' (49 universities, 37.4%).**

- KCUE stated that it would actively utilize the results of its analysis of feedback from the presidents of member universities for policy recommendations and other purposes.