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KCUE Announces Results of "2025 Survey of University Presidents (II) PART 1"

Ensuring Autonomy and Stable Funding for University Innovation in the Era of Digital Transformation

□ The Korean Council for University Education (KCUE, Chairman Yang O-bong) released the results of the “2025 KCUE Survey of University Presidents (II) PART 1: University Innovation in the Era of Digital Transformation” to mark the 2025 Summer Seminar for University Presidents.

□ The survey was conducted from Wednesday, April 30, to Tuesday, May 27, 2025, with responses from 148 out of 192 member university presidents (77.1% response rate).

* Out of 197 member universities, five institutions established under special laws (Korea Armed Forces Nursing Academy, Korea Air Force Academy, Korea Military Academy, Korea Naval Academy, and Korean National Police University) were excluded due to the specific nature of the questions.

□ The following are the key findings from the survey.

[Key Survey Findings]

▶ Primary Areas of Interest for University Presidents

- The top area of interest for university presidents was “Financial Support Projects (Government, Local Government, etc.)” (79.1%, 117 institutions), followed by

“Recruitment and Education of International Students” (60.8%, 90 institutions).

- Due to rising interest, “Recruitment and Education of International Students” rose to second place for the first time since the 2023 survey, while “Freshman Recruitment and Enrollment” dropped to third.

▶ **University Digital Transformation**

- **73% of responding universities (109 institutions) are responding to digital transformation.** Large-scale and national/public universities are responding proactively, while regional (city/province level) and small-scale universities showed relatively lower levels of engagement.
- Regarding the use of AI (including generative AI), **“Opening Generative AI-related Courses”** and **“Chatbots”** accounted for the highest proportion (48.0%, 71 institutions). Compared to the previous year, AI utilization is expanding across various fields.
- This suggests that universities recognize **“Building Digital Infrastructure and Platforms”** as the top priority in preparing for digital transformation (ranked 1st based on weighted total) and are actively working to establish this foundation.

▶ **Priority Spending or Investment Areas for Universities with Tuition Increases**

- Among universities that increased tuition in 2025 (69.6%, 103 out of 148 institutions), **the top priority** (based on weighted total) for actual or planned spending was **“Support for various student facilities and spaces (New construction or remodeling).”**
- This was followed by **“Expansion and improvement of advanced educational facilities”** (2nd) and **“Maintenance of aging facilities”** (3rd), showing that tuition increases are being focused on improving learning and living environments.

▶ **Policy Recommendations for the New Government to Develop Higher Education and Strengthen Competitiveness**

- Regarding policy recommendations for the new government to develop higher education and strengthen competitiveness, the most frequent suggestion in the [Autonomy/Regulation] category was **“Expanding autonomy in university operations (Academic affairs, admissions, quotas, faculty, accounting, etc.)”** (49 institutions). This was followed by **“Expanding government investment in higher education based on law”** (43 institutions) in the [Financial Support] category.

- **“Establishing educational support systems in response to digital transformation and social change,”** related to the survey theme, was ranked 5th (25 institutions). Specific suggestions included **“Support for infrastructure, joint educational platforms, joint R&D, human resource development, and faculty support by establishing a separate financial item to promote the digitalization of higher education.”**

Chairman Yang O-bong stated, "To ensure the competitiveness of universities, which play a central role in enhancing national competitiveness, **innovation based on expanded autonomy and stable finances** is necessary. Above all, **strategic government investment and institutional support** for cultivating talent in the rapidly changing era of digital transformation are crucial."

Attachment

1. Response Status - 2025 KCUE Survey of University Presidents (II) [PART 1]
 2. Survey Results - 2025 KCUE Survey of University Presidents (II) [PART 1]
(Attached separately)
 3. Questionnaire - 2025 KCUE Survey of University Presidents (II) [PART 1]
(Attached separately)
- ※ **Distribution Plan for KCUE Survey of University Presidents Press Release (Draft)**
- 2025 KCUE Survey of University Presidents (II): PART 2. Regional Innovation System & Education (RISE) Special

[Attachment 1]

Response Status — 2025 KCUE Survey of University Presidents (II) PART 1

1. Purpose: Gathering feedback from 4-year university presidents nationwide to reflect on-site perspectives.
2. Period: Wednesday, April 30 – Tuesday, May 27, 2025
3. Method: Web-based survey.
4. Target and Response Rate: 148 out of 192 member universities* responded (77.1%).

* Of the 192 member universities, five institutions established under special laws (Korea Armed Forces Nursing Academy, Korea Air Force Academy, Korea Military Academy, Korea Naval Academy, and Korean National Police University) were excluded from the survey due to the specific nature of the questions.

< 2025 KCUE Survey of University Presidents (II) PART 1 Response Status >

Category		Member Univ. Status*		Respondent Profile	
		No. of Universities	Composition (%)	No. of respondents	Response rate (%)
Total		192	100.0	148	77.1
Founding Type	National / Public	41	21.6	32	78.0
	Private	151	78.4	116	76.8
Region	Seoul Metro Area	73	35.1	52	71.2
	Metropolitan Cities (Excluding Incheon)	38	18.2	27	71.1
	Other Provinces/Cities	81	46.6	69	85.2
Size**	Large	51	26.4	39	76.5
	Mid	60	32.4	48	80.0
	Small	81	41.2	61	75.3

* Excludes 5 universities established under special laws.

** Note: Small (under 5,000), Medium (5,000-10,000), and Large (over 10,000) based on enrollment.

