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KCUE Announces Results of "2025 Survey of University Presidents
(II) PART 2: RISE Special"

**Success of RISE: Budget Stability, Predictable
Environment, and Differentiation Strategies Tailored
to University Autonomy**

□ The Korean Council for University Education (KCUE, Chairman Yang O-bong) released the results of the **“2025 Survey of University Presidents (II) PART 2: Regional Innovation System & Education (RISE) Special”** 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 147 out of 191 member university* presidents (77.0% response rate).

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

□ The following are the key findings from the survey.

[Key Survey Findings]

▶ Concerns Regarding RISE

- The most significant concerns identified by universities were the **“possibility of**

securing stable RISE budgets” and **“policy sustainability of RISE,”** followed by **“regional variations in local government commitment, capacity, and policy implementation.”**

- Concerns varied slightly depending on the university’s location, reflecting the localized nature of the RISE system. This suggests **a need for tailored response strategies that recognize the diverse challenges faced by regional universities.**

▶ Priority Areas for Improvement in RISE

- To ensure the successful operation of RISE, universities identified **“establishing differentiation strategies based on institutional characteristics within the region”** as the top priority for improvement. This was followed by **“balanced adjustment of budget allocation authority between local governments and the Ministry of Education”** and **“establishing horizontal cooperative governance between universities and local governments.”**

▶ Priority Support Areas for the Ministry of Education and Local Governments

- To ensure the stable settlement and operation of RISE, the top priority for support from the **Ministry of Education** was **“securing a stable budget,”** followed by **“establishing operational guidelines that guarantee university autonomy.”**

- Meanwhile, the top priority for support from **local governments** was **“establishing stable financial support plans at the local level.”**

- **Securing a stable budget** is recognized as a **key condition for ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of the policy.**

[Policy Recommendations]

▶ Budget Stability and Predictability in RISE Policy Operation

- The lack of sufficient funding and stable financial support plans undermines policy effectiveness. This acts as an obstacle to the active participation of universities and communities, as well as the creation of sustainable outcomes. Therefore, the Ministry of Education and local governments must establish robust **mid-to-long-term financial support plans** at legal and institutional levels. They should also provide consistent policy goals and operational standards so that **universities can develop long-term plans in a predictable environment.**

► Differentiation Strategies Based on University Autonomy and Characteristics

- To maximize the creative and innovative achievements of universities, their **autonomy must be guaranteed**. The Ministry of Education and local governments should provide clear guidelines that allow universities to independently implement innovation strategies based on their unique characteristics and strengths. A **tailored support system** should be established that **considers the diverse characteristics of universities** within the same region. This will provide a foundation for creating synergies where universities leverage each other's strengths and cooperate with their regions.

□ Chairman Yang O-bong stated, “Based on the results of this survey, we will actively communicate and cooperate with the government and relevant organizations. We aim to ensure that institutional improvements reflecting the opinions of member university presidents are implemented, allowing RISE to settle early and establish a sustainable system for balanced regional development.”

Attachment

1. Response Status - 2025 KCUE Survey of University Presidents (II) PART 2: RISE Special
2. Survey Results - 2025 KCUE Survey of University Presidents (II) PART 2: RISE Special (Attached separately)
3. Questionnaire - 2025 KCUE Survey of University Presidents (II) PART 2: RISE Special (Attached separately)

[Attachment 1]

Response Status – 2025 KCUE Survey of University Presidents (II) PART 2: RISE Special

1. **Purpose:** Gathering feedback from 4-year university presidents nationwide regarding the RISE system.
2. **Period:** Wednesday, April 30 – Tuesday, May 27, 2025
3. **Method:** Web-based survey conducted via official electronic documents and email.
4. **Target and Response Rate:** 147 out of 191 member universities responded (77.0%).

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

< Response Status by Region –

2025 KCUE Survey of University Presidents (II) PART 2: RISE Special >

| Category | Member Univ. Status* | | Respondent Profile | |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | No. of Universities | Composition (%) | No. of respondents | Response rate (%) |
| Total | 191 | 100.0 | 147 | 77.0 |
| Founding Type | National / Public | 40 | 31 | 77.5 |
| | Private | 151 | 116 | 76.8 |
| Size** | Large | 51 | 39 | 76.5 |
| | Medium | 60 | 48 | 80.0 |
| | Small | 80 | 60 | 75.0 |
| Provinces/Cities | Seoul | 41 | 29 | 70.7 |
| | Busan | 13 | 9 | 69.2 |
| | Daegu | 3 | 1 | 33.3 |
| | Incheon | 4 | 4 | 100.0 |
| | Gwangju | 10 | 8 | 80.0 |
| | Daejeon | 10 | 9 | 90.0 |
| | Ulsan | 1 | 0 | 0.0 |
| | Sejong | 1 | 1 | 100.0 |
| | Gyeonggi-do | 28 | 19 | 67.9 |
| | Gangwon-do | 8 | 6 | 75.0 |
| | Chungcheongbuk-do | 11 | 8 | 72.7 |
| | Chungcheongnam-do | 14 | 14 | 100.0 |
| | Jeollabuk-do | 10 | 10 | 100.0 |
| | Jeollanam-do | 9 | 5 | 55.6 |
| Gyeongsangbuk-do | 17 | 14 | 82.4 | |
| Gyeongsangnam-do | 9 | 8 | 88.9 | |
| Jeju-do | 2 | 2 | 100.0 | |

* Excludes 6 universities established under special laws.

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