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[\[Academics\]\[Sci-tech Policy\] Taiwan University Evaluations to Become More Flexible](#)

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Taiwan Today (2012/07/03) The uniform evaluation system applied to all universities in Taiwan will be revised to give more importance to self-assessment and allow more flexibility, R.O.C. Education Minister Wei-ling CHIANG said July 2.

New regulations will be announced by the end of July, and could be in effect as early as next year, he added.

CHIANG was responding to critical remarks by academicians at the biannual Convocation of Academicians at Academia Sinica, Taiwan's highest research institution.

Yu-sheng LIN, an academician and professor emeritus of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, argued that the current university evaluation system hampers academic freedom.

Schools have been spending excessive amounts of time and resources to meet the requirements of the procedure, he said, suggesting that assessments be conducted every 10 years, rather than every five years as is now done.

In addition, using evaluation results to close down poorly performing universities or departments could just be a way for educational administrators to avoid taking responsibility, LIN noted.

His criticisms were echoed by other academicians, who said they would submit a proposal for government consideration at the institute's meeting July 3.

"Assessing universities using uniform standards, regardless of the disciplinary focuses of individual institutions, does little to upgrade tertiary education in Taiwan," said Lih J. CHEN, an academician and president of National Tsing Hua University.

According to CHIANG, the Ministry of Education is working on reducing the number of performance indicators and diversifying standards, to allow universities to establish better self-assessment practices. In the initial stage of reform, the frequency of evaluations will be maintained at once every five years, he said, but the ministry is willing to consider disconnecting assessment results from the mechanism used to determine department and school closings.

Local university assessment has been conducted by the Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan, with results used by the M.O.E. in deciding student quotas and subsidies for each school.

Reference:

[Taiwan Today 2012/07/03](#)

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[National Science Council International Cooperation Sci-Tech Newsbrief](#)

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