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KCUE Proposes Policies for University Development to 21st Presidential Candidates - Policies for Young People in Their 20s-30s -

- The Korean Council for University Education (KCUE), led by Chairman Yang O-bong (President of Jeonbuk National University), Vice Chairman Byun Chang-Hoon (President of Daegu Haany University), and Secretary General Lee Kyung-hee, met with Jin Seongjun, who chairs the Policy Committee of the Minjoo Party, and Kim Sanghoon, the head of the People's Power Party Policy Committee, to deliver the 2025 Policy Proposal for University Development prepared by KCUE.
- KCUE's 2025 Policy Proposal for University Development is intended to guide the new government's higher education policy. The recommendations consist of five goals and nine strategies aimed at propelling the country into the top 10 global powerhouses in higher education innovation.
- KCUE's policy recommendations included five overarching goals: 1) increasing financial investment in higher education in order to become one of the top 10 leaders in the world; 2) introducing three policies to

support young people; 3) strengthening university autonomy in order to drive future innovation; 4) transforming university research with a focus on AI and future technologies; and 5) establishing a regional talent circulation system centered around universities. These goals have shaped concrete implementation strategies for people in their 20s and 30s.

- KCUE Chairman Yang O-bong stated, "We will work closely with policymakers to ensure that these recommendations are incorporated into the next administration's higher education policy." He emphasized that "There is an urgent need for policies that support young people, such as extending the Special Account for Higher and Lifelong Education Support and introducing the Higher Education Financial Grant Act to ensure stable funding for higher education institutions, as well as providing support for the physical and mental health of young people in their 20s and 30s." He also proposed, "We should work to expand infrastructure at universities to facilitate digital transformation, including the use of AI." In response, Vice Chairman Byun Chang-Hoon suggested, "We need a law on private university restructuring, as well as a system to facilitate small contributions to universities. This will help diversify university finances and promote a culture of giving."
- "I appreciate these quality policy suggestions," said Jin Seongjun, the Chairperson of the Policy Committee of the Minjoo Party. He expressed his agreement on issues such as extending the Special Account for Higher and Lifelong Education Support, securing stable funding for higher education, enacting a law on restructuring private universities, and promoting policies for young people. Kim Sang-hoon, the Policy Committee Chairman of the People's Power Party, responded, "We will consider extending the Special Account for Higher and Lifelong Education Support, securing higher education funding, implementing

policies for young people, and improving the visa system to attract and retain foreigners.”

□ Below are the key policy recommendations included in the 2025 Policy Proposal for University Development.

1. Increasing financial investment in higher education in order to become one of the top 10 leaders in the world

- Achieve per-student public expenditure on higher education that is above the OECD average.
 - Define clear goals for higher education finance and establish an implementation system to achieve global top 10 national competitiveness.
 - Extend the Special Account for Higher and Lifelong Education Support and introduce the Higher Education Financial Grant System.

2. Introducing three policies to support young people

- From body to mind, health support for young people.
 - Provide structured support for university students including basic health checkups and psychological and mental health support.
 - Develop a personalized health support system to eliminate blind spots.
- From field experience to career development, innovation in young people’s work experience.
 - Help students develop work-ready skills by providing opportunities to get real-world experience.
 - Strengthen government support and institutional foundations for promoting field training in collaboration with companies.
- From learning to career, a personalized lifelong scholarship system.

- Formulate national scholarship support criteria based on total education expenses (tuition, dormitory, transportation, etc.).
- Develop tailored career development systems for young people to facilitate inclusive self-development.

3. Strengthening university autonomy in order to drive future innovation

- Ensure university autonomy through regulatory improvements.
 - Create an environment for university innovation in line with digital transformation.
 - Introduce taxation improvements including full tax deductibility for donations to universities up to KRW 100,000.
 - Ensure autonomy in tuition setting independent of national scholarship payments.
- Enact a law on private university restructuring to facilitate voluntary restructuring of universities.
 - Develop comprehensive measures for marginal universities, such as systematic liquidation support for universities in response to the decline in the school-age population.

4. Transforming university research with a focus on AI and future technologies

- Build a research ecosystem to achieve “super gap” competitiveness in AI.
 - Build dedicated infrastructure and operating systems for ultra-high-performance GPUs and AI.
 - Create a national fund and support system to recruit top scholars in

cutting-edge fields to join the faculty.

- Promote institute-based graduate schools for cutting-edge research and increase support for them.

5. Establishing a regional talent circulation system centered around universities

○ Establish a university-centered regional innovation ecosystem as anchor institutions.

- Establish and support cooperative systems leveraging local university infrastructure.
- Strengthen region-industry-university-research clusters and increase financial support for them.

○ Establish a support system to attract and retain outstanding international students.

- Develop a government-wide support system to attract and retain outstanding international students.
- Overcome the low birthrate crisis by boosting competitiveness in international student attraction and revitalizing the local economy.

□ A KCUE official stated, “We will make continuous efforts to ensure that the proposals outlined in the 2025 Policy Proposal for University Development delivered to the 21st presidential candidates are translated into policy actions by the new administration.”