

Advance the Harmonious Development of Higher Education Institutions under the Guidance of the Scientific Concept of Development

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Abstract: To build up and carry out the scientific concept of development will have a major and directive significance in solving the problems and conflicts of the development of higher education institutions (HEIs). This paper is based on drawing up the development strategy of a university, and brings up the idea of grasping the strategic opportunity, running the university with features, strengthening the education quality, and promoting harmonious development, which are the key points of using scientific concept of development to guide the development of university.

Key words: the scientific concept of development; higher education institutions; strategic planning

The scientific concept of development is a momentous strategic concept brought forward by Chinese government in the new stage of the new era. It is the Marxist Weltanschauung and methodology that command the development of contemporary Chinese society. To build up and carry out such the scientific concept of development will have a major and directive significance in solving the problems and conflicts of the development of higher institutes as well as boosting the realization of the comprehensive, unisonous and sustainable development of HEIs.

1. To Establish the Development Strategy of HEIs according to the Scientific Concept of Development

The formulation of the strategic planning for the development of HEIs includes the following four major elements: First, analyze scientifically the strategic environment of the institution concerned; especially it's the strength as well as the weakness and how to transform the weakness to the strength. Second, select and establish the concept and the guiding ideology of running the institution, which is the soul of the strategy of development. Third, establish the strategic goal. The development for the location of one institution requires that the strategic goal must include specific time, definite connotation and measurable results. Fourth, nail down the countermeasures for strategic implementation, which include scientific stage, selecting the strategic priorities, formulating corresponding policy, innovating mechanism, and establishing the evaluation system etc. Considering the historical mission bestowed by contemporary Chinese social informationalization, Wuhan Radar Institute (WRI) has carefully analyzed the current strategic environment, and formulated the institute's "eleventh five-year plan" strategic planning for development accordingly.

1.1 The analysis of the strategic environment

Educationist ZHU Jiu-si once said, to run an institute, "one must dare to compete and be inventive in

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transformation.” In the competition the weakness can be transformed into strength and we can also prevent the latter from becoming the former. This is the development of dialectic materialism. This is also the logical starting point for formulating the HEIs’ strategy of development.

According to the analysis of the strategic environment WRI faces, our superiority lies, first of all, in the uniqueness of the Institute’s training tasks. WRI founded in 1952, is the nation’s only institute for the training and fostering qualified personnel for early warning detection and electronic information system. It has formed a comparatively sharp-cut and traditional superiority as well as the characteristic management. And moral education, innovative education and personality education have gained certain popularity among domestic HIEs. Second, the superiority also lies in the various information disciplines. WRI has established a cluster of military and engineering information disciplines and specialties centered on early warning detection and electronic information. At present, all of the Institute’s disciplines and specialties are directly and closely related to the information construction. All the talents are urgently needed in the process of information construction. Finally, the superiority lies in the development of early warning detection system. The construction of the national early warning detection system and the developing posture will broaden the Institute’s holistic development space.

However, the Institute’s development is still faced with serious challenges. Compared with other universities and colleges, ours still has certain obvious disadvantageous factors. The first one includes the limited number of students compared with the large scale of cadets of comprehensive universities, the various training levels and the difficulty in teaching arrangement. The second one concerns with the relatively simplex disciplines and the lack of master-class professionals. The third one is the relatively weak groundwork construction and the critical lack of outlay for running the Institute. The fourth one concerns with the striving for the training and education of early warning detection and electronic information by other higher institutions, which poses a new challenge to the exclusiveness of our Institute.

In view of the strengths and weaknesses of the comparative analysis, we hold that the small scale is the weakness, but the resistance to reform is small; the singularity of discipline is disadvantage, but it makes the key breakthrough in its specialty and win special characteristics possible; the multiple training level presents our weakness, while it also reflects the close relationship between our Institute and the employer, namely, we can meet their needs successfully since we have a definite training aim. Therefore, if only we seize the opportunity and take the advantage of the situation, we can promote our strength and avoid our weaknesses and embark on the path of sustainable development.

1.2 The major contents of the “eleventh five-year plan”

1.2.1 The establishment of the education philosophy and guiding principle for school running

Under the guidance of the scientific concept of development, we have established the education philosophy for running the Institute, namely, the most important task is to personnel training, talent is the first resource, quality is the first requirement, and innovation serves as the first momentum. The guiding ideology for running the Institute during the period of the eleventh five-year is “education orientation, science and technology innovation, social services , open model of running the Institute, information dominance and finally the character development.

1.2.2 The establishment of the Institute’s development goal

Based on the orientation of the running of the Institute and the mission of education for qualified personnel in the field of early warning detection and electronic information, by the year 2010, we will try to rank our Institute a famous domestic institute with a distinctive character of information and higher intensive, which can fulfill the

task of providing qualified personnel and intelligence support for the development of early warning detection and electronic information system.

1.2.3 The establishment of implement policy of the Institute's strategy of development

In order to carry out the goal of strategy for development, we have made clear and concrete the major tasks, i.e. to realize "one change", which is changing academic education to vocational education; to strengthen "two working teams", which are faculty team and administrative staff team; to construct "three major projects", which are master, practical teaching and campus; finally to perfect "four systems", which are moral education system, modern teaching system, the science and technology innovation system, logistics support system.

In order to achieve the strategic goal for the development, third strategic stages are set: the first to ground firmly the foundation (2006-2007), the second to achieve major breakthrough (2008), the last to complete and improve (2010).

2. Several Key Issues in Using Scientific Concept of Development to Guide the Development of the Institute

2.1 Seize the opportunity

It is well known that there is a dissipation structure theory, about which there is an important principle, i.e. the fluctuating will result in an orderly system. In the view of social science, fluctuation means opportunity. It is mentioned in the 16th Party Congress Report that the first 20 years of the 21st century is an important strategic period of opportunity to our country, which must be seized tightly and made great use of. The era background of accelerating the information popularity also bring the important strategic period of opportunity to the development and construction of our Institute. We can see a clear visible venation in the 50-year developmental history of our Institute: The developmental history of our Institute is a miniature of the developmental history of the national early warning detection system. Our opportunity period is closely linked with our nation's information development trend. Opportunity is transient, and time will never recur. Only with a strong sense of opportunity can we forge ahead. Only when the consciousness of opportunity becomes the common understanding of all the staff, can a resultant force be formed and the consciousness transformed into action so as to make it possible for our Institute to substantial development from a new starting point and higher level and fulfill the historical mission undertook.

2.2 Running the Institute according characteristics

Characteristic institution means to form unique, strong and initiative educational feature through practical work under the guidance of scientific school-running philosophy. These characteristics will reflect the style and spirit of a college or university. Generally speaking, WRI is a medium-small teaching-oriented professional and technical Institute. We must get hold of the characteristic, extrude the characteristic and adhere firmly to the characteristic way of running, so as to stand out our strength and rank among the best institutes and become a famous irreplaceable institute with distinctive features. These features are incarnated through disciplines, personnel training and management mechanism.

Fist of all, it is important to form unique characteristics and strong academic disciplines in light of the actual situation of WRI. We have radicated the general idea of "strengthening the national warning system and give prominence to information disciplines." We have also put forward the specialty build-up policy of "giving prominence to the excellent", "assisting the new" and "complementing the weak". "Giving prominence the

superior” means to vigorously develop the excellent disciplines group such as communication and information engineering into strong discipline group. “Assisting the new” means to go all out to support the new disciplines. “Complementing the weak” means to speed up the development of the featured disciplines and make them into the excellent and the superior. Secondly, we should distill our Institute’s ideological and political education brand, which is one of the characteristic of fostering the qualified personnel. In recent years, according to the requirement of the proceeding of the age and based on the education in revolutionary tradition, i.e. the “three go-to and one long time”, the Party Committee of the Institute has urged and carried out the educational project of “Three sets and one propagate” and made this project into a regular thematic education of the Institute which impenetrate through the ideological and political education, thus becoming an unremitting feature. Encircling this education, we began the “six concept” education among administrative leaders, the teacher-moral education among teachers and the “three build-up” education among cadets, namely “build up personality, build up a strong will in becoming a qualified serviceman and build up the determination of safeguarding the frontier”. The Institute has realized “three 100%”, i.e. one hundred percent of graduates apply for going to work in the poor areas, one hundred percent of graduates obey the assignment and one hundred percent of graduates arrive the new unit on schedule. We should further the brand of our Institute’s ideological and political education, reinforce pertinence, pursue effectiveness and always put the ideological and political education in the first priority. ^[1]

In addition, we should also shape and carry forward the tradition of “austere management” and “renowned for strictness”, explore and further the harmonious development of common education and individuality education, reinforce these features by refining, strengthening, and optimizing them, so as to bring into a distinctive shape the individuation characteristic and style of our own and lay a solid foundation for the sustainable development.

2.3 Build-up education quality

Opportunity ought not to be missed and quality is the key to success. The quality of personnel training is the foundation. The teaching quality is the underlying guarantee for the quality of personnel’s training. By a comparison of different HEIs, it is easy to come to the conclusion that the personnel training in all famous HEIs is first-class. Since its foundation 200 years ago, the American Military Academy (West Point) has nurtured over 3,700 famous generals which is over 40% of the total army generals in the nation and 3 Presidents of America. The West Point graduates can be traced among CEO’s of famous enterprises and presidents of famous universities. Two out of the three astronauts landing on the moon, are graduates from the West Point. Former American President Roosevelt said, “In the entire century no schools except the West Point have ever written down so many names on the glorious history book of the greatest citizens of the nation.”^[2] Incomplete statistics shows that Cambridge University ranks the first with 63 Nobel Laureates since the prize was set up in 1904, while Harvard University ranks the second with 35 Nobel Laureates. Harvard University has also nurtured 6 Presidents of America and Cambridge 5 Prime Ministers of Great Britain. Therefore, the establishment and implementation of scientific concept of development requires us to put the quality of personnel education in the first place, stick to the idea of seeking survival and development through quality and establish a long standing effective quality control mechanism.

2.4 Harmonious development

The basis for harmonious development of HEIs is to balance elements for institute development and coordinate scientifically the relations influencing institute development.

First, handle the relation between central task and other ones correctly. Teaching is the central task of HEIs, which must be implemented firmly and really put in the central position. Everything must be carried out around

this center. However, the other tasks, although not being central, will topple the center if they are not handled well. For instance, the ideological and political work should be put in the first place although it is not the central task. Not all tasks should be carried out around the political task, but it should consistently serve the task of education and guarantee the correct way of education and institute development.

Second, handle the relation between theory education and practice training correctly. Theory education is aimed to enhance cadets' theoretical and innovation ability after they have mastered the basic knowledge so that they have better innovative ability and potentials. This is a fundamental difference of higher education from secondary education and skill training. However, generally speaking, our graduates are personnel assigned for specific posts and practical purpose, which requires us to emphasize practice training and to make cadets know what the knowledge is and how to apply it into practice.

Third, deal with the relation between common education and individualized education correctly. It is no doubt that the common requirement for institutes is to foster basic quality, especially the idea of discipline and collective concept. But, along with the constant increase of the requirement for qualified personnel brought forward by the information society, the education that overstresses common quality has shown many problems such as monotonous teaching mode, stagnant curriculum and inflexible teaching management, which affect and restrict the spontaneity, uniqueness, flexibility of cadets and the enhancement of their innovative ability. Therefore, overall reform should be carried out in training mode, curriculum, teaching method and management style so as to further individualized education and promote the harmonious development of common education and individualized education.

Fourth, handle the relation between management and logistics correctly. As a routine job for institutes, management goes through all aspects of institute development. The following should be adhered to, such as implementing the policy of strict management and sticking to scientific management by law. However, management itself is a kind of service and many managerial jobs are actually about logistics. So, management should be aimed to serve education, teachers and cadets. Only by stressing the concept of service all the way, can managerial jobs have "souls", the human-oriented idea be applied and a harmonious campus be set up.

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