

Historical missions of universities under the guidance of harmonious socialistic society^{*}

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Abstract: The construction of harmonious socialistic society is a majestic mission proposed by Communist Party of China from the perspective of constructing a well-to-do society and initiating a new era of socialistic enterprise with Chinese characteristics. Based on this glorious objective, universities should undertake the responsibilities of educating harmonious talents, promoting social innovation, guiding culture development as well as establishing harmonious campus.

Key words: harmonious society; university mission; university function

The construction of harmonious socialistic society is a majestic mission proposed by Communist Party of China from the perspective of establishing all-sided well-to-do society and initiating a new era of socialistic enterprise with Chinese characteristics. As a consequence, what responsibilities should universities assume in the process of constructing harmonious socialistic society?

1. Educating harmonious talent

The first goal of constructing harmonious society is not only the establishment of “human-centered” harmonious society, harmonious development, harmonious substance, harmonious system and harmonious culture, but also the construction of harmonious relationship between human and nature, harmonious relationship among human beings and harmonious relationship between human and society, which are all based on the development of human beings and the harmonious all-around progress of them (CHENG Si-hui, 2005).

Fostering talent is the fundamental responsibility of universities, which should devote themselves into the cultivation of harmonious individuals as well as the promotion of the harmonious and comprehensive development of them under the objective of harmonious society. In order to fulfill this assignment, the universities must adhere to the principle of people-oriented and the dialectical unity of human-being’s natural attribution, socialistic attribution and spiritual attribution. The “respect dharma” and “morality, knowledge and learning”, as well as “the doctrine of universities is bright moral, is fresh human beings and perfect kindness” and “what

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scholars learn is how to act as human beings” originated from ancient Chinese culture. On the other hand, the western modern ideology of universities also places the development of comprehensive individuals to be kernel importance. Einstein proposed, “The graduate of universities should not be specialists but be harmonious individuals”. All these thoughts stressed that universities should not just prepare students for technological specialist of specific area, but for those who have the ideology of human nature, direction of value and pursuit of spirit that based on professional knowledge. Furthermore, universities should lead the students to think over the fundamental issues such as “the goal of life” and “the sense of living”, mainly through mobilizing their intrinsic power of spirit, to the extent that they establish their individual spiritual world and became highly qualified talents, which refer to the harmonious talents by Einstein, ultimately (ZHAO Ri-gang, 2005). The basic characters of this kind of highly equipped talents is possessing humanistic spirits, which are unswerving political belief, sublime ideal and morality, solid episteme and technology as well as diligent and responsible living attitudes. In order to achieve this goal, universities should transform their education conception further and stick to the kernel of ideal faith education, the keystone of patriotic inculcation, the foundation of basic ethics and the objective of all-around development of undergraduates. In addition, they should band teaching specific knowledge and basic ethics together firmly, reinforce the construction of undergraduates’ dual systems of “the teaching of knowledge” and “the cultivation of personality”. “The learning of specific knowledge is focused on the cultivation of students’ creative ability and social competitive ability, on the other hand, the concentration of personality education is based on the establishment of students’ sense of community obligation, the extendedness individuality and the realization of not only free but also comprehensive progress.” (ZHAN Tao, 2005) As a result, the emphatic advancement of universities’ intrinsic construction should be omnifarious, which includes education and teaching as well as campus’ culture. Faced with the grand objective of the establishment of socialistic harmonious society, they should devote themselves into the incubation of undergraduates’ consciousness of democracy and legal governance, justice and fairness, honesty and fraternity, creation and innovation as well as the harmonious coexist of human beings and nature. By these ways, they will have the opportunity of bring up a large number of highly qualified socialistic erectors and credible successors, who are equipped with humanity belief, sublime pursuit, professional craftsmanship, innovative spirit.

2. Promoting social innovation

Innovation is the soul of a nation, the inexhaustible impetus of a state’s property and development. In order to establish the harmonious socialistic society, it must mobilize all positive factors extensively and adequately, exert every kind of innovative energy, to promote the development of economy and community constantly. As the convergent place of information and knowledge, university should help hoist the nurturance of a nation’s creative psyche. The scientific and literature spirit issued from them, the creative talent educated by them, and the creative marrow that they disseminated to every corner of a community, will greatly determine a nation and a state’s innovative capability.

Universities should consider the enhancement of the national creative capability as their own obligation. According to the subjective perspective, they must advance the innovation of educational ideology, educational objection, educational system, educational administration and educational content. Furthermore, they ought to deepen educational reform roundly, transform the obsolete education notion, update its education pattern, encourage students’ development of individuality, establish the atmosphere of creative talents’ pullulating,

advocate scientific as well as innovative spirit and promote students' comprehensive development. In addition, they must constitute teaching and research that have creative spirit and innovative ability, consolidating the practice programs of education, emboldening the coalescence of scientific research and teaching, and encouraging the interaction and mutually promotion of students and teachers. On the other hand, according to the objective perspective, universities must base themselves upon the national stratagem of economic and socialistic development and modify themselves to the nation's developmental strategic objective. Moreover, they ought to find their specific position in Chinese every realm of scientific and innovative system, strengthen the fundamental and frontal scientific research and devote themselves to the solution of momentous economical and social problems that are basic and comprehensive. So, Chinese sustaining, rapid and healthy progress, along with its incessant boost up of holistic strength will be guaranteed together (ZHAO Ri-gang, 2005).

Faced with the majestic objective of the construction of socialistic harmonious society, universities should erect the belief of serving the community. If the information and knowledge of the 21st century is the electric current, then the universities are the generators of the current, that is, they are important impetus source of economic and social development. Modern universities should be the ideology storeroom of Chinese development and the engine of the scientific and technological progress, together with the incubator of the industrial growth. As a consequence, they are of great importance and exert significant influence in the economic construction battlefield.

3. Leading culture progress

“Issues like whether a community is harmonious, a nation is permanent and balanced are greatly determined by its people' ideological and moral qualities and the realization of harmonious society is impossible without common ideal and belief, as well as moral criterion. We must enhance the construction of socialistic advanced culture, perpetually strengthen people' spiritual power and enrich their spirit world” (HU Jin-tao). Campus culture is an important composition of social culture and the progress symbol and construction foundation of human being' advanced culture. As a result, in the systems engineering of advanced culture, we must bring universities' base function and radiate function in the process of social culture construction into play. First, we must take full advantage of universities' outstanding character that they are the habitats of elites from every realm, which including ideology, culture, knowledge and science. Moreover, universities should be built as the moral “principal friendly area” and civilized “paradigm zone” of the whole human society and the “paragon” of the entire social culture construction. Secondly, we must make the best utilization of universities' advantage of subject and information, exerting its function of “repository” and “source of ideology” to propose theories, science opinions and significant original scientific thought, which are of great importance to the development of human society, to explore the newly problems that arisen in human spiritual world and moral area, and to investigate the new problems and dilemmas that emerged in the social and human civilization development. Thirdly, universities are very special social structure, since they have a intimate relationship between other social classes and the mass. Thus, we ought to undergird the direct effort of demonstration and potential function of guidance of universities' spirit and campus culture. The pivotal step of the implementation of the hereinbefore works is making arduous efforts of the construction of universities' campus culture. In order to achieve this goal, first, we should utilize universities' spirit to cultivate elegant, advanced and civilized campus culture, endowing campus construction with recent connotation like modernism, nationality and science to make universities become the real modern

plateau of human civilization. Secondly, we should actively organize a series of rich and colorful after-school events that have collective functions like education, recreation and edification. Moreover, we must sufficiently exert environment's great effect of figure youngsters' healthy personality, mainly through establishing dense campus academic and schoolyard cultural atmosphere. Thirdly, we should administrate the campus according to the law, make the administration system comprehensive and put an end to the scandals and forgeries that happened in the sacred universities. Fourthly, in order to fill the campus with youthful spirit, nimbus and assiduous promising beauty, it should be advocated modern consciousness like freedom and democracy to the extent that the universities are becoming the free land of exchanging fresh thought between students and professors. Finally, it should be enlarged the cultural and civil interaction between inside and outside of the schoolyard, energetically setting up students and teachers to participate in variegated and interesting social practice activities, which will embody the realistic content.

University culture is precursive and innovative, which is an important component of social culture, and the construction of which should inherit and develop Chinese outstanding cultural tradition, assimilating and consulting excellent cultural production of other nations, summarizing their law and character, defining the objective of running the school, advocating the universities' spirit, highlighting "man-oriented" principle and making its special contribution to social civilization, progress and development, as well as the construction of harmonious society.

4. Establishing harmonious campus

The construction of harmonious campus is an important portion of the construction of harmonious society, the immanent requirement of guaranteeing universities sustainable and harmonious development, the basic and safeguard of establishing world-class universities and the necessary demand of achieving the comprehensive development of the students and teachers. Universities should undertake the "exterior responsibility" of cultivating "harmonious" talent, promoting social innovation and guiding cultural progress, meanwhile, they should strive to build peaceful and ordinal, democratic and jurally, justice and efficient, honest and friendly university campus where is filled with vigor and people and nature living harmoniously together.

4.1 Universities administration according to the law

In the construction of harmonious campus, it should adhere to administrate the school according to the law, which is the institutional assurance of establishing harmonious campus. Schools administration should perfect their rules and laws of education, scientific research, manage, and social service further based on the national laws and relative provisions, standardize the office procedures. Governing the school according the law should be combined with run it democratically and promote the publication of school affairs. The important decision-making must be open and transparent, with assimilate all useful opinions and sufficiently advocate democracy. Furthermore, the establishment of the policies of teacher delegates meeting and student representations meeting should be strengthened vigorously and attached enough importance in the process of democratic decision-making. In addition, the construction of every class of academic committee must be intensified energetically and we must utilize the scholars' dominant effort in the academic evaluation, academic progress and academic administration sufficiently. On the other hand, administrating the school according to the law must be combined with the maintenance of students as well as teachers' benefits through the establishment and perfection of the student and teacher's appeal system. Universities should provide favorable study, work and living situation for them. Moreover, they should also

not only offer more choice and communication places for the students' growth and development, but also create a more flexible space and stage for teachers to put to good use of their talent. Finally, governing the school according to the law should pay enough attention on the build of favorable campus legal system, boost the legal education further, reinforce students and teachers' legal notion and enhance the consciousness of following the law, which will help promoting universities' rapid development of every project.

4.2 Constructing the campus atmosphere with the principle of human-centered

Universities should strive to construct a campus atmosphere that is imbued with humanity and they must adhere to the principle of human-centered to create a favorable environment that respect others, care others, apprehend others and tolerance others. Moreover, they should try their best to realize, to maintain and to develop the students and teachers' fundamental benefits, implementing the "affection project" in the campus, concerning both the scholars and students' health and growth, especially those who experience domestic economy difficulty, perfecting the imbursement system and expand financial aid activities for them. In addition, universities should also strive to satisfy students' and teachers' needs of personal development, encourage the progress perspectives that are used to treat themselves and evaluate others, provide personal cultivation and service that are according to students and teachers' specific characters, interests and hobbies, as well as potentials.

4.3 Creating a stable and peaceful campus

Universities should strive to create a stable and peaceful campus environment, which combine the construction of "safe campus" and the reform and development of the school together, and reinforce collective administration and collaborate with the local police department to punish the criminal activities that happened in the campus severely, zealously implement the civil cooperative construction activities with the community and the local government to create a favorable situation for school's development, both inside and outside of the campus. In addition, they should pay more attention in the works like prevent arson, theft, poisoning, emergency and disease control, perpetually strengthen students and teachers' security. It must stick to the principle of prevention as principal and combine prevention and controlment. Moreover, universities must doing a good job of the various types of emergency plans, and improve early warning mechanisms handle emergencies.

4.4 Building a beautiful campus environment

Finally, universities should devote themselves to create a green campus and strive to build a rationally arranged, environmentally pleasant, cleanly, beautiful, full of humanistic atmosphere, ecological favorable campus environment that is fused with the campus culture, and give full play to its compulsory education and demonstration role. In addition, they should also strengthen the environmental protection education, advocate the friendly concept between human and nature. Moreover, they must make an excellent plan in accordance with indicators like the ecological garden, green landscaping, sanitation, pollution control, and others based on the guidance of the scientific concept of development, which need organize and implement seriously.

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