

Dimensions and Approaches of University Development Under the Guidance of the Scientific Outlook on Development^{*}

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This study analyzed the performance of university development which deviated from the scientific outlook on development, then elaborated four dimensions of sustainable development in universities including the cultural perspective dimension of people-oriented, the qualitative perspective dimension of personnel training, the innovative perspective dimension of academic research, and the strategic perspective dimension of scientific development. Finally, this article analyzed the scientific development approaches on coordinating the university extensive expansion and content development, special development and overall development, teaching and research as well as interests of current and long-term development were proposed.

Keywords: scientific outlook on development, university, dimension

Introduction

Seventeenth Party Congress Report stressed that our country should give priority to the development of educational status. University must take the scientific concept of development as the instruction, develop scientific and rational development strategy based on its own actual characteristics, highlight the characteristics and advantages, continuously improve core competitiveness and achieve the goal of education power. ZHANG (2009) stressed that university development must deal with the following relations: Relations on teaching and research; relations on size, quality, relations on structure and performance improvement; relations on priority development and others; relations on reform, development and stability; relations on global and local; relations on immediate and long-term interests. JIANG (2006) pointed out that university should insure the scientific development approaches about coordination with university size, structure, quality and efficiency, special development and overall development, teaching and research, interests of current and long-term development as well as reform, development and stability.

Through literature searching, we found that the domestic scholars ignored some level research on content and structure of university. Therefore, it has better theoretical and practical significance for us to analyze the important dimensions on scientific development of university, and to discuss the approaches on scientific development of university based on the related articles.

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The Performance of University Development

In recent years, university education not only developed rapidly, but also obtained some achievements, mainly in the following areas: (1) University achieved leaps and bounds development by expanding scale; (2) Scientific research, teaching and innovation capacity of university increased; (3) The quality of university education was improved, school effectiveness was becoming stable gradually. However, we also found that some universities have not seriously implemented the scientific outlook on development in the process of rapid development, mainly in the following areas.

Pursuing Scale Expands

Since 1999, China has vigorously advocated the expansion of college enrollment so that many universities seized the opportunity and actively lent to financial institutions. However, with the expansion of university and increasing loans, university have taken some improper measures to deal with the problems of financial resources, so that it made a serious departure from the scientific outlook on development, mainly in:

(1) Compression of teaching and research inputs. To the undergraduate teaching, compressed into teaching and research not only greatly reduced the practical ability of students, and hindered the development of creative thinking of students; it also brought a lot of inconvenience for teachers to gain new knowledge and put new results into practice. To the graduate teaching, the reduction of teaching and research inputs directly affected the actual operating ability of graduate students.

(2) Limit the teachers' salaries, bonuses and benefits increase. To expand the size of school, many universities took a tight focus on spending money out of other infrastructure so that it brought a huge amount of debt and interest payments for the college. It also caused that universities lost a lot of advantages in attracting, cultivating and retaining the best talent and excellent teachers. It greatly affected the school's faculty and the quality of university education, as well as the operating efficiency.

Pursuing Multidisciplinary Development

After reform and opening, university began to pursue more aspects in the construction of subject, for examples, University of Science and Engineering wanted to increase the liberal arts; University of Liberal Arts pursued science and engineering professions. It led to that characteristics of the regional gradually blurred. Irrespective of their size, different universities tended to pursue the integration of arts, science, engineering, agriculture, economics, management, law and other disciplines, so that it neglected the university's own characteristics, advantages and the continual development of its long history (YU, 2006).

Pursuing Hard Power of University

The sustainable development of university required not only hard power, but also soft power. The development of university culture soft power not only relied on excellent teachers, the advantages and characteristics of scientific discipline, but also the overall quality of the students in order to create brand of campus culture and foster the spirit of campus culture. The past development of university in some areas, such as lacking of certain attention on teachers and talents caused the absence of soft power, which also led to a definite impact on the development of university.

Blindly Pursuing Comparisons

Some universities operated in an error idea. Blind pursuit overlooked on the level of education quality. It

also caused that universities ignore their own characteristics and advantages, which affected the quality of education, lower school effectiveness, and have shifted from teaching-oriented teaching to research-based teaching. In fact, the social demand for talent is multifaceted, multi-level. Blind comparisons overlooked the importance of professionals, special personnel education, and led to a serious imbalance between academic building and professional structure.

The Dimensions of University Development

The Culture Perspective Dimension of People-Oriented

The culture perspective dimension of People-oriented is the basis for the development of university. It includes people-oriented education perspective, student perspective and teacher perspective:

People-oriented education perspective. The people-oriented education perspective means that we should put the benefit of education workers, students on the first place instead of the knowledge based on traditional opinions.

In recent years, some universities treated educational development as the increase of the enrollment, scale expansion of campus and advanced teaching equipment etc. So the rapid expansion of the scale of college education seriously affected the educational quality, betrayed the principle which is “all for the students interests, all for the students to grow, all for the students to become talents and all for the students health”. Therefore, university should put their emphasis on improving students’ comprehensive ability and the quality of education, reengineering the campus culture.

People-oriented student perspective. The people-oriented student perspective refers that we should take students’ growth and success as the center, and guides them sincerely with respect, understand concern.

The main bodies of university are the students, so university should pay attention to students’ educational guide and psychological communication. In addition, in the construction of teaching facilities, university should build a good campus environment to meet students’ need and help them learning knowledge. In the academic environment, university should build a free and innovative environment to help students developing abilities. In the student’s personality development, university should give students a free and all-round development space to improve students’ overall quality (HUANG & FENG, 2008).

People-oriented teacher perspective. The people-oriented teacher perspective means that on the one hand teachers should help students learning knowledge, keeping healthy both in mental and body, establishing good moral character; On the other hand, teachers should enhance their moral characters and develop themselves all the time .

Firstly, university should pay attention to the teachers’ qualification and respect knowledge, talents and creation. Secondly, university should introduce the talents of high quality to expand the teachers scale and improve the teachers’ qualification. Thirdly, university should establish a correct orientation, an open, fair and impartial selecting mechanism (LI, 2005).

The Qualitative Perspective Dimension of Talent Training

The quality dimension of talent training means the integration of knowledge, aptitude and quality. It reflects that university should put a lot emphasis on talents quality to satisfy the needs for high quality talents of the society.

There are a lot of evaluation indexes on educational quality. To the undergraduate students, for example,

the excellent rate of students' performance, the results of English four and six levels, etc. To the postgraduates, for example, the level ratio of the papers, the conditions for research, and tutors aptitude of guided and grasped. No matter it is the education for undergraduate students or for the postgraduates, the determinant standard of educational quality is to verify their contribution to the society. Consequently, university should have the sense of quality, and then make it penetrates every aspect of the school work to explore the new ways and hence improve the educational quality of the university continually.

The Innovation Perspective Dimension of Academic Research

The innovation perspective dimension of academic research means that university should develop students' creative thinking, stimulate innovation ability of students and enthusiasm for science teachers, which can fundamentally insure the ability of university education to serve the community.

University education should focus on the innovative ability and practical ability of students, establish a good academic atmosphere. The establishment of academic atmosphere is an important way for sustainable development of university. Therefore, university should establish an effective mechanism on combination of academy and administrative to further promote academic democracy, academic freedom, academic fair.

The Strategic Perspective Dimension of Scientific Development

The strategic perspective dimension of scientific development means that university should establish the scientific outlook on development, which reflected in terms of ideology, strategy, and the formation of advanced educational philosophy, accurate orientation, rational development planning.

Advanced educational philosophy. As the source for the school development, advanced educational philosophy can make the plastic image and the plastic people. Meanwhile, the advanced educational philosophy should not be only with the times in consistent with the school history and cultural traditions to reflect the heritage aspect of its history, but also have the characteristics of the times to reflect the advanced side.

Accurate educational orientation. University should be based on its own conditions and advantages, and highlight the characteristics, development characteristics. The implementation of diversified development strategy is the major neediness of university based on the scientific outlook on development, which is essential for sustainable development of university.

Reasonable development planning. It is necessary for university to consider the long-term development and the practical possibility to make full analysis of social talent requirements, comply with the education trend. Reasonable development planning not only motivates college development planning activity, but also promotes sustainable development in universities.

The Approaches of University Development

Coordinating the University Extensive Expansion and Content Development

To a certain extent, although the extension and expansion brought the majority of college students, the new campus, advanced teaching environment, but the university sustainable development ultimately depends on the education quality, reputation and high operating efficiency rather than the number of enrollment and school size. Sustainable development of university should pay more attention to content development. University should make a positive, cohesive, inspiring campus culture. Besides, take the innovation as the content, and then build academic team (YANG & WANG, 2004). Therefore, university should try to find the coordinated development of

the size, structure, quality and efficiency, as well as adhere to an appropriate scale, content development and the main road.

Coordinating the Characteristic Development and Overall Development

With the beginning of college enrollment, in order to enhance the overall strength of university, some universities continue the pursuit of arts, science, engineering, agriculture, economics, management, law and other disciplines resulting in the neglect of the university's own school characteristics and academic advantages. University should be with the times based on the scientific outlook on development, based on the characteristics of existing and potential professional discipline to play their own advantages and development characteristics rather than blindly one-sided pursuit of comprehensive development. In a word, university should take the scientific development approaches of the characteristic development in harmony with the comprehensive development.

Coordinating the Teaching and Research

With the reform of Chinese education, many universities proposed the educational goals on construction of teaching and research university. Correctly handling the relationship between teaching and research requires the teaching and research together. On the one hand teachers can learn the latest breakthroughs in frontier, and then further promote the improvement of teaching quality through research; On the other hand teachers should inspire innovative thinking of students by participating in teaching (GAO, 2007). In short, research should focus on teaching and educating people to support for teaching; teaching should further develop the spirit of innovation of teachers and students to enhance the university's research capabilities.

Coordinating Interests of Current and Long-Term Development

Development of university education needs to ensure the long-term interests. Firstly, university should establish the outlook of advanced education, accurate the orientation and a reasonable school planning. Secondly, university should assure the current development based on the university's own situation and the social development needs of the school. Therefore, to improve teaching quality and ensure the effectiveness of teaching, as well as improve overall strength, university must follow the scientific outlook on development. Through further reform of education, university should establish a more scientific and more rational mechanism in favor of long-term interests of university.

Conclusion

In short, university should be under the guidance of the scientific outlook on development to maintain sustainable development. University should foster the cultural perspective dimension of people-oriented to ensure the harmonious development between teachers and students, set the qualitative perspective dimension of talent training to improve the education quality, establish the innovation perspective dimension of academic research to construct innovative atmosphere, foster the strategic perspective dimension of scientific development to maintain the advanced educational philosophy and accurate orientation as well as reasonable development plan. In addition, university should strengthen the management of university to ensure that the energy of leadership, teachers and students focus on the education of university, and then correctly coordinate the university extensive expansion and content development, special development and overall development, teaching and research as well as interests of current and long-term development to promote the scientific and

harmonious development of university.

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