A Brief Discussion on How to Construct the Double-Class Colleges and Universities

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Abstract. Double-class construction refers to the construction of world-class universities and first-class disciplines. In the paper, authors discuss on the main research contents for the double-class construction in colleges and universities, and analyze the existing problems of the current construction and management of the double-class construction in colleges and universities, and suggest that colleges and universities should be dependent on establishing the innovative management mechanism, implementing scientific, rationalized and standardized management, increasing the scientific and technological opening-up level used to realize full sharing of resources, and cultivating scientific and technological innovation teams for improving the double-class construction in colleges and universities.

Introduction

The double-class construction is a major strategic decision for the development of China's higher education, and it is a construction project to promote the connotation development of higher education in China. The implementation of double-class construction project will be beneficial to improve the whole level of China's higher education, to realize the historic leap from the higher education power to the powerful country of higher education. It is beneficial to cultivate innovative talents, strengthen the core competitiveness, and lay the foundation for the long-term development in China. It is also helpful to promote the comprehensive strength and international competitiveness of higher education in China, and provide strong support for the goal of the double 100 years and the Chinese Dream [1, 2]. However, some colleges and universities do not completely understand the first-class meaning, lead to the double first-class construction project has not fully played its role, and the implementation of the effect is not obvious in the double-class construction progress. It is of great importance to conduct research on the double-class construction for the purpose of playing better effects.

Main Contents of Double-Class Construction

The basic principle of double-class construction is to aim at first class, to lead and support some high-level universities and high-level disciplines. Based on the disciplines, guide and support the optimization of discipline structure in universities. Regarding performance as a lever, establish incentive and constraint mechanism, set up our own excellent evaluation system of world-class universities and first-class disciplines [2, 3]. Regarding reformation as a power, establish dynamic efficient and open institutional mechanism that is advantageous to the development of universities. The overall goal of double-class construction is to promote a number of higher universities and disciplines into the ranks and forefront of world class, accelerate the proceeding of achieving the modernization of the education system of governance and governance ability [4], improve the level of colleges and universities in the talent cultivation, the scientific research, the social service and the cultural heritage, and play an important role in the aspects of supporting national innovation driving development strategy, serving the economic and social development, promoting Chinese excellent traditional culture, cultivating and practicing the core values of socialism, and promoting the development of the connotation of higher education.
Problems and Their Causes in the Process of Double-Class Construction

Double-class construction has made certain progress, but there still exist some problems that can’t be ignored. In this paper, we list main problems in the course of the double-class construction, and analyze their reasons.

The Development Direction of Building Colleges and Universities is not Clear Enough

In the double-class construction process, many colleges and universities take the world-class university as a template, and ignore the advantage of characteristic subject and cultural accumulation formed in the long-term development of their own universities. In order to achieve short-term goals, several universities carry out vicious competition, and do not pay attention to long-term cultural accumulation, including famous teachers, high-quality students, infrastructure and other excessive pursuit [1]. Because of ignoring their own characteristics and dominant subjects, and blindly seeking great perfection, this would result in the waste of educational resources.

Not Understand Completely the Meaning of Double-Class for Colleges and Universities

Everyone has their own opinions on the world-class colleges and universities, and everyone has their own judgment standards for the world-class colleges and universities. Some people think that the world-class colleges and universities should include the first-class group team, the first-class students and graduates, the first-class scientific research, the first-class academic reputation and the first-class social services, and others believe that the core elements of the world-class colleges and universities are the advanced education concepts, the first-class scientific research, the first-class students and graduates, the excellent teachers and the lofty international reputation [3, 4]. First-class colleges and universities include all aspects of the colleges and universities similar to a big basket. On the surface, everyone has reached a consensus on the first-class concept, but people cannot give a clear answer about what is the essence of first-class. Some colleges and universities fall into the wrong path in the construction of the world-class colleges and universities because that they cannot understand the real essence of first class colleges and universities. All of the colleges and universities could be called the world-class colleges and universities as long as they can realize their own historical mission based on their own actual situation, and try their best to achieve the ultimate goals such as the talent training, the scientific research, the social services, and the cultural heritage.

Excessively Focus on the Ranking System of the Colleges and Universities, Not Treat the Ranking Results in Perspective

Now, several academic institutions and media institutions try to use a relatively objective evaluation program and index system for the colleges and universities rankings, showing the main characteristics of the first-class colleges and universities. Therefore, a variety of colleges and universities rankings has appeared, such as the News and World Report (US News Report) rankings in Times Higher Education Supplement (THES), the World University Academic Rankings (ARWU), China University Evaluation Study in Chinese Alumni Association Network, and China University evaluation rankings in China Institute of Management Science [4, 5, 6]. But what can we learn from these rankings? The ranking system is purposeful program that transmits the precedence information to society, but also conceals some valuable information [1]. Several colleges and universities pay excessive attention on frequent ranking activities, leading that they don’t focus on long-term accumulation, and they carry out vicious competition in order to achieve short-term goals. These are extremely unfavorable to the development of the colleges and universities, and result in a polarization situation.

Not Paying Enough Attention to the Construction of Scientific Research Platform

Scientific research platform is an important place for the scientific research, the technological innovation and the talent training [5]. The platform of the university science and technology plays an important role in the basic research, the higher-teach development and the national major science and technology development plan. Construction of the scientific and technological platforms,
enhancing the scientific and technological opening-up level, continuous research development innovation, and implementation of the talents strategy, will further maintain the rapid development of colleges and universities, develop the national scientific innovation team, and promote the enhancement of the overall national scientific and technological strength. However, several colleges and universities have not paid enough attention to the construction of scientific research platform, and not set up innovative management mechanism, leading that the comprehensive innovation ability of the science research and original innovation is not powerful compared with the world-class colleges and universities.

The Management System is Not Perfect Enough

The scientific management system is the important guarantee of the discipline construction, the talent group, and the scientific research. For certain colleges and universities, the whole mechanism of the talent cultivation and the discipline construction system should be improved urgently. There exist many problems in the colleges and universities, such as the outstanding scientific research talent is insufficient, the discipline direction is not concise enough, and the emphasis is not obvious [6]. If solving these problems completely, the colleges and universities would further improve the core competence and modernize the educational governance system and the management ability.

Countermeasures of Double-Class Construction in the Colleges and Universities

In view of the problems existing in the double-class construction in China's colleges and universities, this paper summarizes the commonness of the development of the world-class universities, outlines the development experience of world-class universities, and provides some countermeasures for the double-class construction in China's colleges and universities.

Adhere to the Diversity Standards, Uphold the Own Characteristics to Further Find the Right Direction

In the course of the double-class construction, all of the colleges and universities should treat the rankings of colleges and universities exactly. These rankings can only be used for reference, and can’t be taken as guidance for building colleges and universities. Simon Markinson points out that any university ranking system is intended to be driven by assumptions and values based on comparison and measurement that shape the results of rankings, where by all ranking systems in the description of higher education are in fact incomplete [7, 8]. First class is a fuzzy standard, what things to achieve the ultimate can become the industry's first-class. Secondly, colleges and universities are supposed to cognize and understand their own actual development. Correctly, fulfill the mission of college development, and grasp the superiority and advantage of college development. Focus on international standards while adhering to the own characteristics of the colleges and universities, do not blindly pursue all-inclusive. For the double-class construction of colleges and universities, it is necessary to have own characteristics to run a world-class university in China. The colleges and universities without any characteristic, just following behind others, are impossible to succeed [8]. At the same time, it also avoids that colleges and universities tend to unitary and malignant competition.

Increase the Input of Scientific Research Platform, Improve the Construction of Scientific Research Platform and Further Promote the Level of Scientific Research

In the course of the double-class construction, universities should attach importance to the construction of scientific research platform, improve the level of scientific research, promote the strength of science and technology, and create a good platform for training excellent teachers and scientific research group [9, 10]. First of all, we should establish a scientific performance mechanism and a fair, impartial and open performance mechanism to fully mobilize the enthusiasm of the researcher. Secondly, we should strengthen the opening-up of science and technology, pay attention to improve the flow efficiency of talent employment, promote the exchange and cooperation of talents in the platform, and realize adequate resource sharing. In addition, use a
variety of talent incentive mechanism to attract and retain outstanding talent, to train and import outstanding scientific and technological innovation team, and to exert the function of science and technology personnel [10, 11]. Finally, we should strengthen the relations and cooperation with the high-level research institutions and research platforms, absorb the advanced scientific research and work experience both at home and abroad, strengthen the original innovation ability and the comprehensive competitive ability of the scientific research, and construct the innovative platform system that play research of original scientific research and strategic technology, major theoretical breakthroughs and practical applications as the main objective. With the development of the scientific research teams and continuous improvement of the scientific research level of the disciplines and specialties, the demand to the advanced instruments and equipment is also increased unceasingly. Therefore, it is necessary to add the advanced instrument and equipment for the scientific research platform.

Deepen the Reform of Management System, and Take New Energy and Vitality into the Double-Class Construction

In the course of the double-class construction, the colleges and universities should deepen the reform of management system and promote the modernization of educational governance and governance ability. The discipline is the basic academic organization of the university, and also is the foundation of the basic activities of the university [12, 13]. During the double-class construction, the colleges and universities should clarify direction of discipline, optimize the structure of discipline, develop the dominant subject and characteristic discipline vigorously, emphasis on strengthening basic disciplines and emerging disciplines, promote interdisciplinary integration of disciplines, and foster and develop new and interdisciplinary disciplines at a deeper level. The discipline arrangement focusing on the characteristic discipline, multi-disciplinary support each other and develop together are taking shape in colleges. Next, administrative orders should be reduced for creating a relaxed, healthy and free academic environment. Leaders in the colleges and universities should carry out policies and regulations that separate academic and administrative, establish consummate academic management system and organizational structure that regard academic committee as a core, exert its important role in some aspects such as subject construction, academic evaluation, academic development and construction of academic atmosphere, and strengthen the service function of administration [13, 14]. Optimize the reward mechanism complete, establish the different distributions and reward systems, build an evaluation system based on actual achievements and contributions and a flexibility and freedom distribution incentive mechanism that incline to excellent talents, bring enthusiasm of the whole teachers and researchers into full play, set up an proactive and enterprising atmosphere, and take new energy and vitality into the double-class construction.

Conclusion

In brief, the colleges and universities must have flexible, but effective measures, to perfect the double-class construction in colleges and universities. In addition, there also exist many opportunities and challenges during the double-class construction process. Adhere to the diversity standard, and pay attention to long-term cultural accumulation. Strengthen the construction of scientific research platform, improve the level of scientific research, promote the strength of science and technology, strive to produce the international impact of major scientific and technological achievements and original scientific and technological achievements, reform further the management system, improve the incentive mechanism, and take new energy and vitality into the double-class construction.

References


