

The Evolution of the Concept of Student Affairs Management in Colleges and Universities

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ABSTRACT. *With the development of the concept of “college student affairs” proposed by the United States, it has undergone several conceptual evolutions, presenting the current phenomenon of “four phases overlapping, occasionally conflicting but still coexisting”. Although China has widely used two professional terms such as “college student affairs” and “university student affairs management”, it has already incorporated Chinese color into professional concepts in China, which has a special localization meaning. This paper will analyze the evolution of the concept of student affairs management in colleges and universities, and put forward a new definition of college student affairs management.*

KEYWORDS: *colleges and universities; Student affairs management; Concept evolution*

1. Introduction

During the period of “student personnel”, the student personnel viewpoint in 1937, the declaration can be said to be a recognized milestone in the professional development of American college students, which marks the establishment of the status of student affairs management in American universities. During this period, students are expected to become discipline maintainers, facilitators of whole-person development, practitioners of school goals[1], coordinators of service work, monitors of students' physical and mental state, assessments and researchers of student development. .

During the “Student Service” period, Student Affairs Management aims to provide students with services and counseling related to overall life and personal development, thus promoting the further development of student affairs management. It is expected that student affairs managers will play the role of the creators of the goals and conditions for the growth of students, the planning and execution of programs inside and outside the classroom, the services and evaluators of the development of students, the integration and coordinator of resources and personnel, and the concept of democracy. Demonstration and dissemination.

During the period of “student development”, the theory of student development has found a reasonable theoretical basis for the professional field of student affairs management and established an unshakable position in student affairs management. At the same time, the student development theory also highlights the educational function of student affairs management, emphasizing the consistency of student affairs management with the overall goal of student learning and personality development. Student affairs managers are not only managers, but also “student development education.” By”.

During the period of “student learning”, the orientation of student affairs management has been transformed from the auxiliary status of past learning to the main body that promotes student learning as teachers, mainly promoting students' learning and life-level growth and development outside the classroom, and the role of student affairs management[2]. The function is divided into two parts: the school and the students. It clearly gives the students the macro and micro role of the affairs management, and the role of the student affairs management from the trivial service to the culture and organization management of the whole school. It is expected that student affairs managers will become experts in promoting student learning, defenders of individual rights, and advocates of a humanized environment.

2. The Definition of the Evolution of Student Affairs Management in China's Colleges and Universities

2.1 College Student Affairs Management and Ideological Education

The concept of ideological and political education has many definitions, but it is basically described around the characteristics of educational practice. For example, ideological and political education is a comprehensive education practice of thinking, morality and psychology with political and ideological education as the core and key points in order to achieve its political goals and tasks. Student affairs management is to manage students' specific tasks involved in extracurricular activities, such as enrollment and student status[3], employment guidance, study guidance, student residence, student financial assistance, etc., emphasizing management and services, and their management content cannot be covered. Management and research in ideological and political education or only as a subsidiary of ideological and political education. Therefore, college student affairs management and ideological and political education should be concepts that are both connected and different, not completely equivalent. There are also differences in the research content and focus of the two.

2.2 College Student Affairs Management and Student Work

The concept of “student affairs” has been gradually recognized and accepted by the Chinese education community since the late 1990s. Many people simply think that student affairs is a student work. In fact, strictly speaking, there are differences

in many aspects between the two. . The term “student work” appeared in the early 1990s. In the process of the transition of China's socialist market economic system, the extracurricular specific affairs involving the development of college students have gradually increased, such as student psychological counseling, subsidies for special hardship students, work-study management, and graduate employment management. With the acceleration of the popularization of higher education, people realize that the “basket” of moral education is difficult to reflect the characteristics of new affairs. As a result, the “student work” in the general sense began to be used frequently. This period of “student work” can be said to include “student education” and “student management”[4].

The work of college students in China refers to the purposeful, planned and organized development, cultivation, improvement of students' politics, ideology, morality, psychology, character quality and guiding students directly. The education, management and service work of behaviors are embodied in the three aspects of education, management and service: the education in student work mainly refers to students through daily ideological education, student party organization construction, campus cultural activities and social practice. Carry out the cultivation and shaping of political[5], ideological and moral qualities; management is to restrict and guide students' behaviors through rules and regulations, and promote the development of students' behaviors in the direction of social norms, including student status management, behavior management, rewards and punishments, evaluation, etc.; It is to create a certain condition to solve the practical problems encountered by students in the process of study and life, and to help students to become healthy and healthy, mainly including providing psychological counseling, employment guidance, funding for difficult students, and organizing work-study activities. It is a brief summary of the reality of the work of college students in China. The first aspect is ideological and political education. The second and third tasks are the content of student affairs management. It can be said that in China, college student work is a class concept, and it is a general term for non-academic education, management, and services for students outside the classroom.

Therefore, starting from the current and future development trends of higher education in China, student work should be composed of two subsystems, one is the ideological and political education subsystem. It includes students' ideological education, party and group education, moral education, legal education, etc. College ideological and political education belongs to the research field of ideological and political education, focusing on the influence of mainstream values, morality, national culture and multiculturalism on the growth of college students and its inheritance and development. The law. The second is the student affairs management subsystem. It belongs to the field of higher education research, focusing on the impact of higher education development on student growth and the specialization of student affairs management. Student affairs management is the subordinate concept of student work, and the two are affiliation.

3. Chinese Academic Circles Define the Management of College Student Affairs

At present, there are three main definitions of university student affairs and student affairs management:

The first is to define the basic meaning of the concept of “college student affairs management” or “student work” and “student management” in a broad sense as: the influence of non-academic affairs and extracurricular activities on the students’ education. To guide and serve students, enrich students' campus life, and promote the growth of students into talented organizations[6].

The second is to define the management of student affairs in colleges and universities as the organization and guidance of students' non-academic activities and extracurricular activities, involving student organizations, various extracurricular activities, cultural and sports activities, funding, student mental health, discipline and law, health care, and employment. Guidance and academic support in many areas[7].

The third is that the educational activities of “student affairs” in colleges and universities include the following four elements: students, professionals, specific affairs and student affairs. The four elements in “student affairs” are also a close and inseparable whole. They are related to each other and interact to form a system with internal logic[8].

However, some of the above definitions do not distinguish the differences between college student affairs management, student work, and ideological and political education according to the actual situation in China. Some emphasize specific issues, but ignore the description of their professional characteristics.

Therefore, based on the perspectives of Chinese and foreign researchers, and the actual situation of higher education management in China, try to define the management of college student affairs as follows: College student affairs management refers to the specialized organization and student affairs managers of colleges and universities according to the national laws, policies and personnel training objectives. Under the guidance of certain student affairs management values, use relevant professional knowledge and skills, rationally allocate resources, and provide organizational activities for the student affairs necessary to promote student development.

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