

Research on Existing Problems and Optimization Suggestions for the Development of Student Associations in Chinese Universities

Ge Zhang *

Northwest University of Political Science and Law, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710122, China

* Corresponding author Email: 835114460@qq.com

Abstract: Universities serve as the cradle for cultivating talents, while Student Associations Chinese universities constitute a vital carrier of campus culture. With the rapid development of universities, the development of Student Associations also takes on various characteristics of The Times, therefore, it is particularly important to strengthen the management of Student Associations. This paper analyzes the times background and main problems of the development of Chinese university Student Associations, and puts forward corresponding suggestions.

Keywords: Student Associations; Student Work; Club Activities.

1. Times Background

In early 2020, the Party Group of the Ministry of Education of China and the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League issued the "Management Measures for the Construction of Higher Education Student Associations". This normative document requires strengthening the construction and management of student associations in universities, fully utilizing the educational functions of student associations, and making them an important platform for students' growth and success. Student associations are mass organizations of students that are formed based on their own interests and strengths, autonomously. With the rapid development of the economy and society, young people exhibit individual differences. The various student associations established accordingly have also become the most representative groups of university life activities.

The college party committee must fully recognize the challenges currently faced by the development of student organizations and consider the improvement of student organization work as an important part of advancing quality education in colleges and universities. We must resolutely prevent college student organizations from slipping in ideological construction and straying from the right direction in their development.

2. Existing Problems

As student organizations in higher education institutions rapidly develop, they also encounter some prominent issues that restrict their growth. These issues mainly manifest in the following aspects:

2.1. The Organizational Leadership is Weak

As the future of the nation and the pillars of the ethnic groups, college students should establish unwavering ideals and beliefs, and cultivate profound feelings for their country and nation. However, the ideological and political education in current student club activities is insufficient, and club members lack systematic learning of political theories. In club activities, party members and youth league members lack opportunities and platforms to play a model and leading role,

and the organizational guidance of student clubs is weak. However, student associations are one of the main platforms for daily life and social interaction among students. Therefore, the lack of ideological and political guidance in association activities often leads to a phenomenon where "if one does well, the whole group benefits, and if one does poorly, the whole group suffers", which severely hindering the healthy development of the associations.

2.2. The Management Mechanism is not Sufficiently Perfect.

At present, universities do not manage student organizations strictly enough, with deficiencies in management systems and mechanisms. For example, the annual registration system for student organizations is not well-established, the new member recruitment model for these organizations is not strict, and the activity approval process is not standardized, especially for activities related to external contacts, which are not rigorous enough.

2.3. The Guiding Role of Teachers is Limited

The hosting unit and the supervising teacher play a role in guiding the development direction and providing professional guidance for student associations. For a long time, the hosting units and supervising teachers of student associations have not paid enough attention and emphasis to the activities of these associations. For example, the communication between advisors and students generally remains at the operational level, with little attention given to the impact of club activities and the personal development of association members. This leads to the guidance role of the instructor being superficial, failing to achieve comprehensive guidance for the student associations. Moreover, the workload recognition mechanisms for advisors vary among different universities, and some do not even have a unified standard. This is also a major reason for the low enthusiasm of advisors in their work.

2.4. The Received Support is Insufficient.

With the growth in the number of universities students, the types and quantity of student associations have also seen an astonishing increase. Currently, the number of student

associations in universities generally remains at several dozen or even over a hundred, with a very wide influence. Some associations with a large number of participants and high student attention usually have their own brand events, with high demands on the frequency and quality of event hosting. The demand for material resources such as funding and venues from university student associations is growing larger and larger, while school youth league committees and other guiding units generally find it difficult to fully meet these needs. At present, most student associations are trying to seek social resources externally to meet their own needs, which leads to unstable factors in student work.

3. Optimization Suggestions

3.1. Strengthen the Organizational Construction of Associations

Firstly, the ideological and political guidance and daily management of student associations should be integrated into the overall framework of ideological and political education in schools. The Party committee of higher education institutions should establish a new management mechanism led by the Party committee's working departments and assisted by all relevant functional departments. The Youth League committee of higher education institutions should fully play the role of the League organization as a bridge and link, reaching out to and uniting the youth.

Secondly, strengthen the basic institutional construction of associations and improve the daily operational mechanisms. It is recommended that higher education institutions manage each association with the requirement of having 1 advisor, 1 guiding unit, and 1 League branch. Continuously strengthening the guidance and management capabilities for student association work. Student association advisors should be hired by the student associations and then registered after the consent of the affiliated units.

Thirdly, enhance the effectiveness of self-education of the League branches within student associations. The relevant functional departments of higher education institutions should guide the League branches to seize key time nodes, carry out patriotic-themed publicity and educational practice activities, utilize the strengths of association members to widely promote the Party's basic theories, basic lines, and the history of the Party and the school, and educate and guide student association members to serve society and others with what they have learned.

3.2. Enhance the Safeguarding Role of Mechanism.

Firstly, strictly adhere to the spirit of the documents issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League regarding the work of student associations in higher education institutions, and continuously improve the management model of student associations at the institutional level. Establish a three-tier linkage management model involving the school, college, and supervising teachers, to reinforce the responsibility for daily management. Secondly, improve the approval mechanism for student association activities. By implementing a strict two-tier approval process, proactively anticipate and address issues related to activities with high risk factors and rigid content, ensuring that association activities are conducted safely and orderly. Thirdly, intensify the scrutiny of the content of association activities. Strengthen monitoring and prevention against student association

activities that lack elements, have incomplete information, or are supported by non-governmental organizations, especially foreign organizations, to ensure the political correctness and ideological healthiness of the activities. Fourthly, extend various management and assessment mechanisms within the university to student associations. Conduct annual quantitative assessments of all officially registered student associations, establish an evaluation system for student associations, and comprehensively evaluate the activities carried out by student associations on a monthly basis, providing targeted constructive feedback.

3.3. Optimize the Management of the Teaching Staff

Firstly, strictly review the selection and employment system for supervising teachers. The school's Youth League Committee should communicate with the Party committee of the college where the supervising teacher is based to ensure that the teacher has strong ideological and political quality, organizational management ability, and possesses professional knowledge related to the development of the associations. Secondly, establish a regular communication mechanism, such as monthly meetings or seminars. This will promote in-depth exchanges between the supervising teacher and association members, and timely understanding of the association's needs and the development dynamics of its members. Thirdly, universities should unify and optimize the workload recognition standards for club supervising teachers, reasonably compensate them, to stimulate the teachers' enthusiasm for work. Fourthly, encourage teachers to participate in the planning and execution of association activities, achieving a close integration of theory and practice, and enhancing the effectiveness of guidance.

3.4. Improve the Support and Funding System.

Firstly, it is recommended that schools strengthen cooperation with governments, enterprises, and alumni associations to broaden funding channels and establish special funds to support outstanding club projects. Secondly, optimize the allocation of internal resources, flexibly adjust the policy for the use of facilities, and ensure that club activities have sufficient space. Thirdly, enhance training and guidance for the core members of the associations, improve their ability to independently organize activities and manage funds, promote the self-development of associations, and form a virtuous cycle. Through collaborative efforts from multiple parties, create a more stable and favorable growth environment for student associations.

3.5. Utilize the Educational Functions of Associations.

Firstly, enrich student community cultural activities. Respect the principal status of students in school management, and promote the internal development of the student associations from "I have to go" to "I want to go". Through the "one-stop" student community, student organizations can implement various cultural activities such as student keynote speeches, cultural performances, and exhibitions, achieving "terminalized" organization. This ensures that all types of activities can receive feedback in the shortest time, improving the response time for work optimization.

Secondly, provide skill training and innovative practice opportunities. Student associations should closely focus on their own characteristics and offer a series of targeted skill

training courses. Especially for traditional culture study associations, emphasis should be placed on strengthening their skill training for cultural heritage and protection. At the same time, by implementing innovative practice projects, students are provided with a platform for theoretical application, enhancing their practical operation skills and innovative thinking.

Thirdly, fully utilize the advantages of the student association platform, and organize a variety of characteristic activities during students' spare time. Encourage students to participate widely to enhance their comprehensive quality and practical innovation ability. With the incentive mechanism of the "second classroom", promote the "one-stop" student community to transform into a field with more cultural connotations. In this process, not only are students' self-management and self-education abilities strengthened, but their self-discipline spirit and social adaptability are also cultivated.

References

- [1] Zhang Dong. Research on Innovative Management Model of College Student Associations [J]. Theory Research and Practice of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, 2021, 4(07): 154-155+158.
- [2] Wu Yuegang, Yang Shiyao. Empowering National College Student Associations to Solidify the Consciousness of the Chinese National Community [J]. Research on Ethnic Education, 2024, 35(02): 28-35.
- [3] Zhou Jialiang. Research on the Role of Student Associations in Promoting the Construction of Clean Culture in Colleges and Universities [J]. School Party Building and Ideological Education, 2024, (04): 85-87.
- [4] Zhang Heming, Zhang Chunmei. Analysis of Restrictive Factors and Optimization Principles of College Student Associations [J]. Journal of Wuhan Metallurgical Management Cadre College, 2023, 33(04): 52-55+85.
- [5] Huang Shulin. Research on the Construction of Ideological and Political Education of College Student Associations from the Perspective of "Three-Comprehensive Education" [J]. Journal of Baise University, 2023, 36(02): 137-142.
- [6] Zhou Meifang, Xue Jiayun, Zeng Jingling. Current Situation and Development Approaches of College Student Associations Construction from the Perspective of Project-Based Learning [J]. Quality Education in the West, 2023, 9(03): 162-165.
- [7] Huang Yi, Yan Xiaohui. Research on the Transformation of Management Model of College Student Associations [J]. Youth Exploration, 2019(02): 49-58.
- [8] Wang Yanxia, Cheng Lianghong. Exploring the Path of Development of College Student Associations: From the Perspective of AGIL Model [J]. Educational Theory and Practice, 2022, 42(15): 7-11.
- [9] Sui Long, Zhang Jiajia. The Role of College Student Associations in Students' Career Planning Education [J]. Human Resources, 2024, (04): 86-88.