Journal of Education and Educational Research
ISSN: 2957-9465 | Vol. 1, No. 1, 2022

Research on the practical ways of party-building work of universities in a new era under the perspective of campus culture

-- Taking National South-West Associated University as an example

Bin Du

Chongqing University of Post and Telecommunication, Chongqing, China

Abstract: National South-West Associated University（NSAU）, known as a miracle in the history of education, cultivated the pillars of the nation under exceptionally difficult material conditions. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the school accounted for one-third of the Party members in Yunnan Province and actively carried out the national salvation and survival movement, which has great significance for the party construction work of universities in the new era. With this background, firstly, this paper elaborates on the deep connection between the Communist Party of China（CPC）and NSAU. Secondly, we analyze the campus culture construction of NSAU and extract the key points that the party construction of universities can make use of to learn from. Finally, this paper combined with the problems of the party construction work of colleges and universities proposes practical ways for the party construction work of universities in the new era from the perspective of campus culture construction.

Keywords: Campus culture construction; Party building work in higher education; Southwest United University; Practical ways.

1. Introduction

The main efficacy of the party construction of universities is to focus on the original intention and mission of cultivating socialist builders and successors with comprehensive development of moral, intellectual, physical, social, and aesthetic qualities, insisting on the establishment of moral education and cultivating new people of the times who are brave enough to bear the great responsibility of national rejuvenation. The essence of college culture construction is to strengthen the leading position of the socialist core value system in spiritual civilization education, to enhance and maintain the high political consciousness and political belief of teachers and students through various ways, and to create the necessary environment for the benign operation of college party construction work. There is a high degree of fit and unity between the two in terms of ways and purposes.

On January 20, 2020, Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, visited the former site of NSAU and was deeply impressed by its glorious history of strenuous struggle and spirit of edification and education. At the end of the visit, General Secretary Xi interpreted and refined the spirit of NSAU and put forward new directions and requirements for the cultivation of talents and social services in higher education in China, especially pointing out that "Now, the purpose of education is to train socialist builders and successors, and to cultivate new generations with a sense of history and responsibility and high aspirations". NSAU has gone through 80 years., It has important practical value and significance that "do not forget the history to open up the future, good inheritance to good innovation" in the new era to inherit and carry forward the spiritual heritage and glorious tradition of NSAU.

2. The Communist Party of China and South-west Associated University

During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, to preserve the flame of knowledge, three renowned Chinese universities - Peking University, Tsinghua University, and Nankai University moved to Kunming and merged to form National South-West Associated University. Although it existed for only eight years due to historical reasons, NSAU established the scale of academic freedom internally and was hailed as the bastion of democracy externally. And NSAU has not only cultivated outstanding academic talents, but also continued the glorious revolutionary tradition of the Communist Party of China. According to ‘the History of Peking University’, the party organization of NSAU during the war was the most numerous, concentrated and powerful underground party organization in Yunnan. Based on its mission and historical responsibility, the CPC carried out the December 1stt Movement leading the youth and guiding the intellectuals at NSAU, which set off the climax of the domestic anti-civil war and democracy struggle, becoming the third milestone in the history of Chinese youth movements after the May Fourth Movement and the December 9th Movement.

The CPC has deep roots and close ties with NSAU. Driven by the mission of the times to save and survive, the CPC is inseparable from the formation of the spirit and tradition of the University.

3. Cultural construction of NSAU

Gu Binglin, the former headmaster of Tsinghua University, pointed out that the manifestation form of university culture can be divided into three categories: material culture, institutional culture and spiritual culture, with material being

the carrier, institutional being the contact point and spiritual being the point. In order to ensure the richness and hierarchy of the research and to explore the development of university culture construction more deeply and comprehensively, this paper intends to analyze from three aspects: material, institutional and spiritual.

3.1. Material Culture

Southwest United University was formed in the special period of the war against Japan. The students and teachers' life were difficult because of funding constraints and the late soaring prices. Tin roof classrooms to rainy days cannot attend classes; The dormitories were cramped, dark, and dozens of people lived in a "hodgepodge", and there was sand and gravel in the food. The hard material living environment did not break the strong will of the students and teachers of NSAU to study and aspire to a noble spiritual world. Despite the extremely difficult conditions without food, they were able to enjoy the pleasure and satisfaction brought by knowledge and study hard, which is the best depiction of the spirit of hard work.

3.2. Institutional Culture

(1) Philosophy of Education

President Mei Yiqi put forward the idea of "general education" in the light of the wartime reality and the actual needs of society at that time, in order to educate senior talents with "sound character to serve the country and society". Therefore, NSAU paid much attention to the social reality in all aspects, highlighting the practicality and timeliness of the curriculum and extracurricular activities.

As a wartime university, NSAU was established to serve the war effort. And the war effort was the greatest social reality at that time. Therefore, NSAU enacted a series of initiatives with the characteristics of the times and places, and closely related to the social reality at that time, such as expanding the enrollment scale in response to the great demand for talents in communications, aviation and civil engineering during the war effort. At the same time, the university has made appropriate modifications to the training programs and strengths and arranged for the compilation of military-related practical teaching materials such as weaponry, all of which can directly serve the special needs of talents during the war period. All these adaptations of the times fully reflect the function of NSAU in spreading knowledge, cultivating talents, scientific research and serving the society's realized the double effect of nurturing people by serving the war effort and practicing.

(2) Teaching Credit Management

The teaching system of NSAU is unified with the credit system as the main body, and compulsory courses and elective courses are held together. The implementation of the established system also has thunderous and strict management requirements, and the final course assessment index is attached with great importance. If the subject examination does not meet the standard of passing the delineated, there is no opportunity to make up the examination and the course will not be awarded credit. Students who fail a course will have to spend extra time in the following semesters to retake the course until the final examination meets the school's grade requirements. Otherwise, they will be ordered to withdraw from the school. Therefore, students take each examination very seriously, so that they can truly develop a sense of academic rigor. It has been proved that a strict teaching management system is essential to ensure the quality of learning and can effectively improve students' learning attitudes and results. NSAU has produced two Nobel Prize winners in eight years, five winners of the highest national science and technology award, eight winners of the "Two Bombs and One Star" merit medal, 175 academicians and several generations of scholars trained by them, which is a monument to the history of education in China and the world.

(3) Student self-governance system

NSAU has always practiced the inspiration of the spirit of self-governance and carried out student work in accordance with the principle of self-governance and student self-management. The operation of student clubs is a remarkable representative of the way of student self-management. The university only promulgates a series of management measures and regulations for the operation of the clubs, but otherwise does not make the responsibility to restrain. From the application for establishment, process operation to dissolution for reasons, the whole process fully demonstrates the characteristics of student self-education, self-management, self-service, and the main consciousness of the students will be fully manifested.

The student self-government associations of NSAU have actually been working and operating under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. The Communist Party of China members of NSAU have basically joined the relevant associations, so the work of the CPC in NSAU has been carried out mainly on the platform of the associations. Under the promotion of the Party organization, relying on progressive associations, the activities of the associations become the propaganda to implement the Party's policies. They led students to carry out targeted struggles against the reactionary policies of the Kuomintang, and actively and deeply carried out anti-war and salvation activities. The underground organization of the CPC developed and expanded in NSAU, and to a certain extent opened a new chapter in the democratic movement of NSAU students.

3.3. Spiritual Culture

Although NSAU has existed for only eight years, it has formed the "true spirit" of Chinese universities - the patriotic spirit of educating to save the country and studying to serve the country. This spirit is reflected in the teaching style of the educators of NSAU: "science for the nation". The quality of 'perseverance' of NSAU is the epitome of the group of outstanding Chinese intellectuals who share the difficulties of the country and the nation and who stand up the backbone of Chinese culture. For example, they were aware of the need for various talents to build the country after the victory of the war with the belief that they would win the war. They taught in class and studied after class to build up the strength for future national independence and national rejuvenation. They resolutely gave up attractive treatment and experimental conditions abroad and published "The Theory of Permutation of Piles" in the attic of a cowshed, which shocked the international mathematical community.

This spirit was reflected in the extracurricular activities that burned with hope in the hearts of countless people. The underground party of the CPC directly led the early important mass organization- the community. Since then progressive youths have established various societies one after another, and they often got together to analyze current affairs and politics, dig deep into the disease of national weakness and

attack the corrupt and gloomy rule. Lectures, speeches and debates are highly sought after, and posters, publications and performances are popular on and off campus. The students inherited and carried forward the spirit of inclusiveness, scientific rigor, diligence and pragmatism, and freedom and enterprise of the former Peking University, Tsinghua University and Nankai University, and formed a situation where a hundred flowers blossomed in the university. The activities of these societies were mostly based on the theme of anti-Japanese salvation, which truly reflected the life during the war period and set off the climax of anti-war propaganda and literature in Kunming.

This spirit is embodied in the school song “China has finally wiped out the humiliation lasting for a long historical period. And it is attracting the brightest minds from all over for the Modernization Drive. "The people of NSAU are concerned about the fate of the country, with the firm belief that the national shame will be wiped out and the war will be won. They cherish their time and study hard, and a large number of students have joined the army and served on the frontier, splashing their youthful blood on the front line of the war. According to the statistics of the South-west Associated University Museum, during the war, NSAU has set off three military booms, with more than 1,100 people enrolled in the military, accounting for 14% of the total number of students. With the determination that "if the Japanese invasion is not destroyed, what is the purpose of study", they actively participated in the front line of the war, combined the theory of books with the practice, played their knowledge in translation, aviation, communication technology, etc., and made positive contributions to the victory of the war.

Patriotism is the most valuable spiritual core and the brightest color of NSAU. As a model of Chinese university spirit, the spirit of NSAU should become an important reference for the construction of socialist universities with Chinese characteristics. To pass on and promote the spirit of NSAU with patriotism as the core is the right thing to do and the right thing to do in the construction of socialist universities with Chinese characteristics.

4. Practical ways of party construction in colleges and universities in the new era under the perspective of campus culture

（1）Raise the station, put morality first and emphasize the focus on the importance of grasping the party-building work in universities

The headmaster of NSAU, Mei Yiqi, mentioned that "the so-called great scholar is not a building, but a master". Teaching and educating people is the most basic content of the work of colleges and universities. Teachers are the important core of carrying out educational tasks and are the decisive factor in talent cultivation. Preachers themselves should first understand the way, believe in the way, and do the way. Universities should highlight the strengthening of political leadership of college teachers, cultivate key teachers into party members, and build a high-quality teaching team with excellent political quality, excellent business ability and high level of education. Strengthening the ideological style of teachers is the fundamental guarantee to promote the benign operation of ideological and political education, which helps to promote the continuous improvement of teachers’ political quality and the organic intersection of the two major educational tasks of teaching and educating people to form a powerful force for the party building work in universities.

Keeping in mind the important instruction of General Secretary Xi that the first criterion for evaluating the quality of the teaching team is teachers’ moral and teachers’ style, we should help the party construction work of universities with the construction of teacher moral and teacher style, focus on the core internal drive construction of the teaching team, take the project of "double leaders" as the extendable path of ideological and political work of colleges and universities, i.e., expand the political leadership value of branch secretaries to radiate to the grassroots party teachers. And then the whole university staff will be guided to consciously take up the responsibility of guiding the healthy growth of students, so as to promote the party construction work to obtain high satisfaction and recognition among all students.

（2）Tighten the implementation, innovation and breakthrough to ensure that the task of party construction in colleges and universities is completed from strict and new South-west Associated University wrote a miracle in the history of education under the financial constraints and turbulent times because of the institutional culture of the University, which successfully compensated for the severe material deprivation through a scientific and realistic management system. In the new era, under the leadership of the Party over the work of colleges and universities and the overall leadership of the Party Committee over the work of schools, colleges and universities use Marxism to lead the cultural construction of universities and vigorously promote the core socialist values into colleges and universities, into classrooms and into minds.

On the one hand, firmly establish the concept of "quality is the lifeline of grass-roots party building work". In the process of developing party members, seriously implement the total number of controls, optimize the structure, improve the quality, play a role in the general requirements, and in a strict spirit do a good job of regulating the total number. Using the quality to measure the effectiveness of party building, to promote the overall strict governance of the party to deepen the development.

On the other hand, we should innovate the system of party-building work in colleges and universities. Party building and ideological and political work in the new era should strive to improve people-centered, grasp the ideological dynamics of teachers and students in a timely and accurate manner, combine solving ideological problems with solving practical problems, and fully stimulate and mobilize the enthusiasm, initiative and creativity of teachers and students.

（3）Emphasize practice, contact with reality, and strive to expand and enrich the effectiveness of party-building work for nurturing people in colleges and universities

NSAU's "general education" philosophy enables students to meet the practical needs of society, enhance their practical skills, improve their sense of social responsibility and inspire their patriotic passion. Party-building work in colleges and universities takes moral education and promoting young students to maintain party spirit as the ultimate goal, helping Marxism to gain broad political beliefs among young students. Therefore, the party-building work in colleges and universities should bear in mind the requirement of General Secretary Xi that "education should be closely linked with the fate of the country and the future of the nation" and carry forward the rigorous, truth-seeking and pragmatic spirit of exploration of NSAU.

On the one hand, we should closely relate to the actual growth of college students. Under the premise that universities should examine their own situation and the human and social environment in which they are currently located, they should conduct party education activities guided by realistic needs. At the same time, we should build a new media position on the Internet, use big data to understand the hot spots of students' concerns, innovate the topics of party classes with the times, enrich the manifestation carrier forms of party classes, increase the affinity of party classes, and enhance the cohesiveness of party organizations and the attractiveness of activities.

On the other hand, build a solid social practice position. In order to do a good job in the new situation of student party construction work, universities should broaden the ideas of party construction work, actively explore and find more social practice positions, actively encourage student party members to participate in various social practice activities, make full use of what they have learned to serve the society, and realize the role of the university "A prominent center of education and culture".

Under the new situation, the party construction of colleges and universities and the campus culture construction should maintain close linkage; The party construction of colleges and universities can provide scientific guarantee for the campus culture, and the campus culture can provide important driving force for the party construction of colleges and universities. The value of campus culture construction of NSAU is of great significance to the new-age student party members to thicken patriotism and firm ideal beliefs. The cultural construction of NSAU and the party construction of colleges and universities in the new era will be synergistically penetrated to promote common development, accumulate energy for the follow-up of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, provide high-quality comprehensive talents with scientific ideological foundation and ideal beliefs for the great task of national rejuvenation, and promote the party construction work of colleges and universities and campus culture construction to embark on a new journey.

Acknowledgment

This paper is the result of "Research on the Ideological and Political Education of College Students under the New Development Concept" (Project No. 18SKSZ018) of Chongqing Municipal Education Commission and "Research on the Path of Chinese Culture Education for International Students in the Context of ‘Telling the Chinese Story’" (Project No. GJJY20-2-16) of Chongqing University of Posts and Telecommunications International Education Research Project.

References

[1] Chinese government website. Xi Jinping visited the former site of Southwest United University: education should be closely linked to the fate of the country and the future of the nation [EB/OL]. 2020.

http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-01/21/content_5471226.htm.

[2] Xinhuanet. Struggle for a century and set sail for a new journey | Hidden and glorious -Exploring the past of the underground party of NSAU[EB/OL]. 2021.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/local/2021-02/24/c_1127133896.htm

[3] Guo Zhongshu. Study on of National South-west Association University [D]. Jiangsu: Soochow University, 2018.

[4] Min Yongxin, Chen Zhichao. Grasping from the source: constantly cracking the difficult problems of university students' party building work [J]. Red Flag Manuscript, 2017(12): 1-4.

[5] Li Bingde. Theory of teaching [M]. Beijing: People's Education Publishing House, 2001: 15-18.

[6] Shi Zhongying. The Cultural Character of Pedagogy [D]. Beijing: Beijing Normal University, 1998.

[7] Zhang Shiya . The Current Status of Ethnic Education in the West [EB/OL].

http://www.cajcd.cn/pub/wml.txt/9808 10-2.html,1998-08-16/1998-10-04.