

Research on Administrative Power and Academic Power in Chinese Universities

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Abstract: Academic power and administrative power are at the core of the internal governance structure of universities. This article analyzes the research overview of academic power and administrative power in universities, and the problems existing in the relationship between academic power and administrative power in universities. Furthermore, the manifestations and causes of the imbalance between academic power and administrative power in China's colleges and universities are explored, and policy suggestions to optimize the relationship between academic power and administrative power in China's colleges and universities are proposed. The in-depth research on the problems of the coordination between academic power and administrative power in Chinese universities. It is expected to help improve the quality of internal governance in Chinese universities.

1. Introduction

With the development of our society and the continuous progress of reform and opening up, the internal management system of colleges and universities is constantly reforming and improving, and the authority to manage academic affairs is gradually strengthened among the collective teachers. However, due to the squeeze on the academic power by the administrative power in the puppet schools in China, the imbalance between the academic power and the administrative power has been caused. Therefore, how to coordinate the development of the relationship between academic power and administrative power is one of the important goals of China's modern university system construction. The current imbalance in the relationship between academic power and administrative power in Chinese universities has led to the mutual offside of academic power and administrative power, excessive expansion of administrative power, and the failure to play the leading role of academic management power. These have caused the development of higher education and innovation in academic research. Out of the way. This paper is devoted to the research on the relationship between academic power and administrative power, and puts forward some policy suggestions on how to coordinate the relationship between them. This has very important practical significance for the balance of the internal governance structure of universities, the improvement of management systems, and the promotion of harmonious, healthy and rapid development of universities[1].

2. The Related Concepts

Academic power. This article defines "academic power" as the control that university academic staff and academic organizations have over academic institutions based on their professional expertise and academic capabilities. And this kind of control power can only be reflected when they make decisions and evaluate management of academic affairs in academic behavior through their professional knowledge. As the knowledge distribution center of a society, the most basic nature of colleges and universities is academic organization. Therefore, academic power should be the dominant power in colleges and universities. According to the meaning of academic power, it can be concluded that academic power has its own significant characteristics compared with ordinary power, and certain special principles are also required when exercising academic power. First, academic power must evaluate or make decisions on academic affairs based on the opinions of professional academic groups or researchers. Second, scholars or researchers must make the

evaluations and decisions base on their knowledge and experience. Academic power involves various disciplines and specialties, and it has a decentralized characteristic. Its important functions are to formulate academic norms and conduct academic evaluations[2].

In academic power, academic power can be divided into two concepts, namely individual academic power and collective academic power. The former main refers to that experts and professors independently own and exercise power. Only in the group of people who carry out teaching and research activities in colleges and universities can individual academic power be fully reflected, and teachers and scholars can freely exercise and implement teaching methods, research surveys and assessment scores. This personal academic power is even more prominent in graduate education. The latter is the collective power or influence of experts and professors, which belongs to the collective exercise of judgment and decision-making, and is also known as the power of group rule. The difference from the former concept is that this right is mainly reflected in the academic decision-making at the upper level of the academic organization (school, college, department). Teachers and students will not interfere too much with external unreasonable factors during the process of learning, teaching and academic inquiry. The difference between collective academic power and individual academic power is that collective academic power can independently consider, explore and communicate the freedom of academic activities.

Administrative power. As a kind of political power, administrative power is based on the national constitution, and enforces the will of the state and manages it with compulsory administrative means. The theory of decentralization is the earliest explanation of administrative power. In Aristotle's "Politics", it is considered that the power of the state has three functions: deliberations, execution and trial. The modern interpretation of administrative power has the theory of separation of three powers, which was proposed by Locke, that is, the division of state power into legislative, executive, and external powers. Our Sun Yat-sen put forward the five-power constitutional doctrine in this view, holding that state power includes legislative, judicial, administrative, supervisory, and examination powers. With the continuous development of social history and culture, administrative power has been given multiple interpretations. From the perspective of management, administration should be all activities performed in order to achieve the policies announced by government agencies, that is, to achieve a certain purpose, using many human resources for control, deployment and command. From the perspective of administrative objects, administration can refer to all matters that a government agency needs to handle. In addition, administrative can be understood as all management actions carried out by a specific agency or department in order to achieve or accomplish a certain purpose. Although the perception of administration has produced various views in academia, all scholars agree that administration is involved in all aspects of society, economy and life. Whether it is the entire country, society, or a company or organization in the market, there are administrative activities and enforcement actions that are equivalent to administration.

3. The Imbalance of Academic Power and Administrative Power in Chinese Colleges and Universities

3.1 The Management Focus is Misplaced, and the Role of Academic Subjects is Not Prominent

Teaching and academic research work as the main work content of colleges and universities determines that academic subjects such as teaching and research staff should be the focus of colleges and universities. However, in the actual operation of China's university management system, the subject position of teaching and research personnel has been affected by administrative agencies at all levels. Administrative power has caused great disadvantages to the development of academic subjects themselves, making their responsibility be lack of room for full play. The administrative department interfered too much with the decision-making and management of academic activities, and academically oriented universities lose their identity. At the same time, some colleges and universities do not pay enough attention to the status and role of academic

experts, committees, and related personnel in the internal management process. Teaching workers are not formal when they participate in management. Academic personnel in the administrative department exercise administrative power, and their academic power is limited[3].

3.2 The Phenomenon of Academic “Bureaucratization” and “Academicization” is Obvious

Academic affairs, as the main affairs in business schools, determine the necessity and importance of the existence of academic power, while Chinese universities as one of the components of the national administrative system make the definition of academic power and administrative power in universities very vague, and the government. Too much interference in higher education has not only weakened the characteristics of colleges and universities as an academic organization, but the excessive management of academic affairs by administrative organizations has made the “bureaucratization” of academic affairs more and more obvious. Administrative power is in the process of exercising. It occupies a lot of space for academic power, which makes the administrative management appear “academic”. The internal management and operation mode of colleges and universities is completely based on the government model. Top-down, centralized management deals with internal affairs, academic organizations, and academic activities. The decision-making, management, and evaluation of the government were interfered by administrative staff, and academic development could not be fully and fully supported by academic power, which affected the achievement of higher education goals and academic freedom.

3.3 The Legitimacy and Operability of Academic Organizations Are Difficult to Reflect in Practice

At present, although the exercise of academic power in Chinese universities includes academic organizations such as academic committees, due to the intervention of administrative power and its dominant position in the power to leave schools, academic organizations are greatly affected in actual operation. As the main institution for exercising academic power, academic organizations' main role and establishment goals should be to manage and make decisions on various academic affairs and activities, so as to promote the improvement of the internal governance of universities and the deepening of academic levels. However, as the academic organization in China's colleges and universities is still relatively singular and there is a vacancy in the establishment of institutions, it is impossible to mobilize the enthusiasm and initiative of professors and other academic staff to participate in academic affairs within the school. The will of power is dominant, and the legitimacy of academic power of expert committees, professors, and other related personnel on campus is difficult to achieve.

4. The Consequences of Imbalance of Academic Power and Administrative Power in Chinese Universities

4.1 University Power Centers Shift Upward

Throughout our country, most schools adopt a highly centralized management model led by the party committee and the principal responsible. Although the dean and the head of the department are elected through democratic elections, they are, in the final analysis, directly appointed by the school's party committee and principal. Based on this, the dean of the college and the head of the department must be responsible to the party committee and principal of the school. It belongs to the grassroots level of administrative power representatives and mainly assists the principal in carrying out related work. Therefore, the dean and the head of the department usually disregard the opinions of ordinary professors. As far as the university's three-tier structure management system is concerned, the decision-making power of everything in the school is basically in the hands of the school level. It is undeniable that the department administration has certain powers, but it has not fully grasped the decision-making power of department affairs. Faculties lack powers in recruiting and employment, using and allocating funds, preparing teaching plans, and setting majors. These decisions all originate from schools. Strictly speaking, the college only plays an advisory, staffing,

and enforcement role in departmental affairs. The power structure of colleges and universities is “inverted pyramid”, ignoring and limiting the creativity and initiative of grassroots scholars and professors. In fact, scholars and professors are the real subjects of academic power. However, their opinions are not necessarily useful. This fully reflects that administrative and academic power are in the hands of a few people, which seriously hinders the process of college democratic power construction[4].

4.2 Administrative Power and Academic Power Are Unclear

Unclear powers and responsibilities of administrative power and academic power are the key reasons leading to the replacement of academic power by administrative power. In terms of objects of power, the attributes of things have not been clearly divided and stipulated. As far as the subject of power is concerned, there is a cross phenomenon between academic members and administrative members in universities. In other words, some people have roles in administrative and academic organizations. Generally, the above content can be called “both shoulders”, which has a negative impact on the clear division of administrative power and academic power. When making academic decisions, people with dual identities will most likely not be able to objectively establish their positions. In this way, it will make academic power with administrative power. At the same time, single-person personnel are in the decision-making process. China is very likely to cater to dual-identity personnel, leading to academic power being dominated by administrative power, and thus failing to give full play to its value

5. Analysis of the Causes of the Imbalance of Academic Power and Administrative Power in Chinese Colleges and Universities

At present, in the actual work, when administrative and academic affairs are decided and managed in Chinese universities, administrative power and academic power are prone to conflict due to the ambiguity of their duties. The specific division of labor between administrative power and academic power is not clear. The division of power between the two is still questionable, which has led to the interference between administrative power and academic power. First of all, administrative power often easily exceeds its scope of responsibility and affects the decision-making and management of academic affairs. In some cases, the problem of complete control of academic affairs may even arise, making academic power useless. Secondly, when professors are the main body of scholars when they make decisions and manage academic affairs, because of differences in individual decision-making and management concepts, it is difficult to unify opinions and cannot effectively and effectively exercise academic power. In addition, when the scholars make decisions and manage academic affairs, the individual's willingness to play their own role is too subjective, and it is easy to cause the academic power to interfere with the administrative power.

6. Research on Measures to Balance Academic Power and Administrative Power

The principal of a high school in China is the legal representative of the school. He is not only a manager but also a scholar. Therefore, the principal has the ability and power to balance and coordinate academic and political power. The special position of the principal gives him two important functions: administrative power can be obtained through the grant of bureaucracy, and academic authority can be obtained through his own grasp of knowledge.

Academic power has a very important decision-making power in the management of academic affairs in colleges and universities, which can effectively promote the internal development of colleges and universities in China. The academic power of academic staff is an important subject in the development of academic affairs in schools. The internal governance mechanism should be reformed accordingly. At the same time, academic affairs and administrative affairs can be reasonably divided to achieve mutual balance between the two.

7. Summary

In the internal management of colleges and universities in China, academic power and administrative power are two inevitable forms of power, each of which plays a different role, and reflects its own advantages and disadvantages, form a relationship of conflict and cooperation. The development of colleges and universities has a very important influence, and it is an issue that cannot be ignored in the internal governance of colleges and universities. This paper uses literature research method, comparative research method, and inductive method to study the imbalance between academic power and administrative power in China's colleges and universities, It also analyzes from multiple perspectives, and proposes policy recommendations to promote the development of the relationship between the two to promote harmonious development and healthy interaction between them, and to provide reference values and significance for the development of higher education and internal governance in China.

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