Thinking on Higher Institutions’ Educational Scientific and Research Organization to Education Think-tank

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Keywords: higher institutions; educational science and research; Think-tank; functions; decision-making consultation

Abstract: The higher institutions’ educational scientific and research organization is the important power to build the new-style Think-tank with Chinese characteristics. When the new round of Think-tank construction tide is just around the corner, the higher institutions’ educational scientific and research organization shall accelerate transformation and realize new development. As far as the author is concerned, the higher institutions’ educational scientific and research organization shall undertake the historical mission transforming from the place spreading knowledge to the place imparting wisdom, thus progressively transforming to the Think-tank, which is to provide consultation service for government decision-making and development of higher education.

The issues like how shall the higher institutions grasp opportunities to accelerate transformation and realize new development when the new round of Think-tank construction tide is just around the corner; and how could the higher institutions adapt to era needs and social development and establish new-style Think-tank, thus providing consultation service for government decision-making and higher education development, so as to step into broader stage are urgently needing to be solved. In the author’s opinion, the higher institution educational scientific and research organization shall strive to realize three transformations concerning the key points of work and stress on giving play to four functions.

1. Transformation is the Historical Mission Faced by Higher Institutions’ Educational Scientific and Research Organization

1.1 The Transformation of Higher Institutions’ Educational Scientific and Research Organization is the Need to Modernize Education Governance Capability

Higher institutions are the place that knowledge and talents gather and the place of origin of new knowledge, new opinions, new strategies and new methods, with abundant research strength and complete subjects as well as significant knowledge advantages. In the new progress to modernize China’s education governance system and governance capability, it is urgent for the higher institutions to propose feasible measures and channels as well as continuously accumulate experience and conduct practical exploration in the practice of running businesses. In face of new situations and requirements, the higher institutions’ educational scientific and research organization shall dare to undertake historic mission, continuously integrate knowledge advantages and talent advantages to convert knowledge into wisdom, and propose feasible new plans and new strategies towards practical problems, thus turning it into the place to propose advice to governments and turn the advice into political speech.

1.2 The Transformation of Higher Institutions’ Educational Scientific and Research Organization is the Necessary Need to Making Scientific Educational Decisions

The reform of higher institutions’ education is in the abyssal region. Many problems and new situations occur in educational field. Only by means of more scientific countermeasure while handling and addressing them, can the new situations be coped with, thus promoting educational development. In addition, the consequences of education decision-making errors turn to be more
and more serious. It is hard to make scientific decision just by human experience and wisdom. Hence, the educational reform urgently requires making scientific educational decisions, for which, the intelligent support of educational scientific and research organization is badly in need.

1.3 The Transformation of Higher Institutions’ Educational Scientific and Research Organization is the Need to Give Play to the Function of Political Advice

Currently, there are few transformation of higher institutions’ educational scientific and research organization is really giving play to the function of proposing political advice and making high-level scientific and research achievements; besides, there is large gap between higher institutions’ educational scientific and research organization and high-level education Think-tank; hence, the higher institutions’ educational scientific and research organization shall strive to carry out educational research and convert the experience accumulation in educational basic theories and practices to the intelligent support of service educational development, that is, to convert knowledge into wisdom, thus continuously improving its research level and carry out theoretical innovation and advice proposing for education decision-making in the region and promote the scientific and sustainable development of itself in the meanwhile$^{[1]}$.

2. The Transformation Shall be Made in Key Points of Work

2.1 Transforming to the Combination of Macro Research and Micro Research in Research Angle

It shall transform from emphasizing educational materials and teaching method research to micro development strategies of colleges and reform of new hot points and key practical problems in higher institutions’ education; broaden the thinking pattern, focus on practical problems and strive to seek for breakthroughs in key links and key fields in brand-new perspective; carry out the research concerning how the higher education responds to national major strategic needs, how the higher education realize connotative development and the outstanding problems faced by higher education and so on, combined with the new situations and development trends of national higher education after the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, thus offering advice for the development of higher institutions and higher education.

2.2 Transforming to the Consultative Research in Organizational Form of Science and Research

It shall be cooperated with high-level, far-sighted and professional organizations to jointly tackle difficulties. Besides, the experts in educational science and research shall be invited to learn from each other and draw lessons and experience from other in the forms of lecturing and reporting, thus improving research level and capability. It shall broaden thinking scope and jump of the box of mutual research among higher institutions; instead, it shall take the perspective of national higher education development, to study the issues concerning higher institution development and higher education reform. It shall study the problems under the general background of comprehensively building a moderately well-off society and higher education reform.

2.3 Transforming to Building the High-Level Research Think-tank in Development Orientation

To transform the higher institutions’ educational research organization to the new-type think-tank shall actively give play to the Think-tank and outer brain role played by it in the cause development of the higher institutions, to offer theoretical guidance, decision-making consultation, practical exploration and wisdom support for the development of higher institutions. The issue-oriented theoretical research and empirical research shall be conducted, to strive to become the proposer of...
reform development decisions, assessor of policy efforts, guider of social publicity, which shall be focused on giving play to the four functions. In Jilin Agricultural University that the author studies in, the working ways and methods are continuously innovated. It takes the construction of high-level scientific and research organizations with the characteristics of higher agricultural education research integrating educational scientific research, educational talent cultivation, educational academic management and decision-making consultation service as the development goal, to vigorously promote the whole faculty staffs to take active part in higher educational research and strive to offer decision-making consultation, theoretical research and practical exploration for the cause development in higher institutions.

3. Stressing Giving Play to Four Functions in Occupational Positioning

3.1 Giving Full Play to Decision-Making Consultation Function

Currently, the educational reform is in the abyssal region, and the work is concerned with how the higher institutions could grasp opportunities and win advantages in the new round of higher education reform. In the recent years, The Higher Education Institute of Jilin Agricultural University focuses on the latest trend concerning higher education in various places, latest national and provincial higher education micro policies, as well as the fresh experience concerning higher education reform in various places, to provide relevant information and research reports for the leaders in higher institutions and regional education administrative departments. In each year, in-depth research and analysis are conducted towards the ranking of colleges and universities. Besides, the systematic research has been conducted towards higher educational agricultural institutions all over the country as well as key provincial colleges and universities in Jilin University. What’s more, based on the analysis result, the relevant consultant suggestions are provided to enhance core competitiveness of colleges and universities; and good results have been achieved. In addition, the research is carried out concerning how Jilin province, the strong province of higher education, and higher education in Jilin province cope with the issues like regional industrial structural adjustment, so as to provide decision-making reference for educational administrative management departments.

3.2 Giving Full Play to the Function of Theoretical Research

To carry out higher education development strategies and educational and teaching theoretical research are the important functions of higher educational scientific and technological organizations. The higher institutions shall give full play to the function; actively conduct higher education and higher institution reform development research and concentrate on the in-depth, systematic and quantitative research concerning the school-running philosophy, school-running model, subject construction, department management, operational mechanism, modern college system, school-running resource optimization allocation, professional structural adjustment and school-running internalization and so on. In particular, the implementation of higher education theoretical and empirical research focuses on choosing innovative educational research topic in the aspects of pedagogy, educational administration and educational economics, to explore new educational rules and focus on researching the new problems, new trends and new measures of higher education development under the background of new higher education era. In the meanwhile, the higher level research achievements shall be made. In addition, attention shall be paid to enhancing the research of team construction. It shall take the topic of educational research as the supporting point to build the research team and carry out higher education strategic research and special research on major issues in higher institutions. Jilin Agricultural University periodically organizes the research team to take part in the campus, provincial and domestic relevant meetings and training, thus improving the research level. In addition, in each year, the provincial or domestic well-known education experts are invited to make the seminar or lecture concerning the theories or practices of higher education development, about which, the discussion is carried out.
3.3 Giving Full Play to the Function of Guiding Practice

On one hand, the higher institutions’ educational scientific and research organization shall make the research report combining theories with practices with the significance of guidance by carrying out higher education development strategic research, thus offering reference for the higher institution development. On the other hand, it is to serve for the educational and teaching practices in the higher institutions by organizing the research on educational and teaching projects. As far as the author is concerning, educational research shall serve for teaching practice and put before educational practice, guide teaching practice, and promote and improve teaching practice. Hence, in practical work, higher education research institute closely focuses on the central issues regarding higher institution development and the problems urgently needing to be solved in teaching and education, to design the teaching reform research projects pertinently. Besides, topic research stressing and taking classroom teaching quality as the theme is carried out. In addition, the pertinent design and research topics are carried out concerning educational and teaching practices, thus gradually forming the research system and characteristics with one system and two wings, i.e. taking the research in the higher institution as the core and the research on educational theories and educational practices as the two wings.  

3.4 Giving Full Play to the Function of Academic Exchanges

Academic activities are the important carriers and platforms of exchange research results and improve research level. By academic exchanges, it can apply the educational research results to educational practice in tie, to make different research thinking patterns collide with new research sparks and achievements, promote most advanced research field and achievements, and benefit the top designers and whole teaching staffs in colleges and universities. The Higher Education Institute of Jilin Agricultural University invites experts and scholars in the major of education to conduct academic reporting seminar and training seminar; and carry out the forums and activities like educational scientific and research academic exchange meeting, academic activity month, seminar of teaching and research achievement application in colleges and universities and higher education reform and development and so on, to promote the exchanges of research achievements and foster great research and academic atmosphere concerning higher education.

References