

Research on the High-quality Connotation and Construction Path of College and Universities Party Branch in the New Era

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Abstract:

The grassroots party branch is the basis of the whole work and combat effectiveness of the party in universities. To give full play to the role of the Party branch as a fighting fortress, it is necessary to strengthen the party branch construction. Both the central and local governments have attached great importance to the construction of party branches, and have formulated a series of relevant documents. Jiangsu Province has formulated a “Three-year Action Plan for ‘Improving Quality and Efficiency’ for the Construction of Party Branches in Jiangsu Colleges and Universities in the New Era (2019-2021)”, and designated 2020 as “the year of high-quality party branches construction”. This research defines the connotation of high-quality party branches construction in universities in the new era, and sorts out the main contents and requirements of high-quality party branches construction. It proves that there are problems in some party branches construction, such as party branch secretaries emphasizing achievement over party construction, lacking of enthusiasm and innovation. This research puts forward solutions, like strengthening the training of party branch secretaries, strengthening the guidance and support of party branches, and implementing inspection system and drive policy.

Keywords:

Party Branch in Colleges and Universities, High-quality, Construction Path

1. Introduction

The Party branch is the basic organization of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the basic unit of the work of the party organization, the fighting fort of the party in the social grass-roots organizations, and the foundation of the whole work and combat effectiveness of the party. [1] On October 28, 2018, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China issued the “Regulations on the work of CPC Branches (Trial Version)”, requiring that “party committee organizations should strengthen the standardization of party branches and expand the increment of advanced party branches.” [1] On May 23, 2018, the Party group of the Ministry of Education issued the “Opinions on the Implementation of the Construction Plan of ‘Benchmarking and

Competing for the first’ of Party Organizations in Colleges and Universities”, which points out that the grass-roots party branches are the basis of all the work and combat effectiveness of the party in Colleges and universities. It requires “strict benchmarking, courage to reform and innovation, and strive to be advanced”, and actively create a model branch of the Chinese Communist Part (CCP), and establish a normalization rectification mechanism for the backward party branches. [2] On May 28, 2019, the “Three-year Action Plan for ‘Improving Quality and Efficiency’ for the Construction of Party Branches in Jiangsu Colleges and Universities in the New Era (2019-2021)” determines 2020 as the year of high-quality construction of party branches in colleges and universities in Jiangsu Province. This plan will promote the cultivation of about 1000 high-quality party branches with high quality and good function in colleges and universities in the whole province. [3] In order to further strengthen the construction of party branches, Jiangsu colleges and universities have formulated specific implementation plans based on their own actual conditions, thereby promoting the high-quality construction of school party branches.

2. Connotation and Research Status of High-quality Construction of College Party Branches

2.1. The Connotation of High-quality Construction

The “Opinions on the Implementation of the Construction Plan of ‘Benchmarking and Competing’ of Party Organizations in Colleges and Universities” issued by the Ministry of Education of China proposes that party organizations at all levels should fully benchmark Xi Jinping’s Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era, the Spirit of the 19th CPC National Congress, the CPC rules and discipline, and the “Opinions on Strengthening and Improving the Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities under the New Situation”. Through the implementation of the above construction plan, colleges and universities should strive to achieve first-class development in terms of party management, school management, high-quality development, and comprehensive and strict party management. [2] In 2019, the Jiangsu Provincial Party Committee issued the “Three-year Action Plan for “Five Focuses and Five Implementations” in Jiangsu Grassroots Party Construction in the New Era (2019-2021). This plan emphasizes: “Grassroots party building is related to the foundation of governance and the overall situation of development. Grasping the grassroots party building is the original intention and mission”, indicating that we should consolidate the construction of “standard + demonstration” in grass-roots branches. Jiangsu Province has printed and issued the “Three-year Action Plan for ‘Improving Quality and Efficiency’ for the Construction of Party Branches in Jiangsu Universities in the New Era (2019-2021)”, which further clarifies that in 2020, it is necessary to cultivate about 1000 high-quality party branches with high construction quality and function, and puts forward guiding opinions on the high-quality construction of Party branches. [3]

According to the interpretation of the above-mentioned documents, the basic connotation of “High-quality Party Branch” is to build a party branch with high quality and good function on the basis of standardization construction in accordance with the related requirements.

2.2. Research Status of High-quality Construction of Party Branches in Colleges and Universities

The construction of party branches in colleges and universities has always been the focus of Chinese scholars' research, mainly focusing on the following aspects: First, the importance of the party branches construction in colleges and universities. Zhang Qionqiong and others pointed out that “the grassroots party organizations in colleges and universities are the frontiers for cultivating qualified socialist builders and reliable successors, and they are also an important foundation for the implementation of the party’s education policy.” [4] Yang Shao believes that “improving the quality of the grassroots party construction in colleges and universities is the need to strengthen the foundation and advance with the times, and it is also the key to solving the problem.” [5] Guo’s research shows that “the construction of party branches in colleges and universities is an important part of the great project of CCP. It is related to the long-term stability of the country and the hope of the nation.” [6]

Second, the problems in the party branches construction in colleges and universities. Tang Runhua pointed out that the main problems existing in the construction of college student party branches include “unscientific setting”, “insufficient workers”, “unswerving ideals of party members” and “procedural life contents”. [7] Guo Lichang believes that “there are some problems in the party branch of college students, such as imperfect construction, weak working strength, insufficient role, lax educational management, and lack of positive incentives.” [6] In addition, Wu Qiaohui pointed out that the student party branch “need to innovate in the organizational system and activity form”, “the leadership needs to be strengthened,” and “the political function needs to be further highlighted”. [8]

Third, innovation in the path of party branch construction in colleges and universities. Wang Yuanbin mentioned two innovation paths for college student party branches: “One is to innovate the form of branch activities by combining subject characteristics; the other is to make good use of the academic resources of universities to innovate the content of branch activities.” [9] Hou Yuxin combined the concept of management by objectives in management theory and put forward a series of ideas for the work objectives and assessment system of college student party branches, such as formulating an assessment system, implementing a supervision mechanism, implementing a feedback and promotion system, etc. [10] Wang Ting proposed that “the party branch of university teachers should fully tap the power source of party branch work innovation hidden in subject construction, educational environment, emotional factors, network resources, etc.” [11]

Fourth, research on the high-quality construction of college party branches. Since the construction of high-quality party branches in colleges and universities is a newly proposed concept, there are few related studies. We need to conduct in-depth research based on the current actual situation.

3. Main Contents and Requirements of High-quality Construction of College Party Branches

The “Three-year Action Plan for ‘Improving Quality and Efficiency’ for the Construction of Party Branches in Jiangsu Universities in the New Era (2019-2021)” issued by Jiangsu Province sets out the objectives, tasks, implementation principles, key measures and tasks of “Improving Quality and Efficiency”, and also mentions the inspection of contents and requirements in the construction of party branches .

3.1. Main Contents of High-quality Construction of Party Branches

The inspection of the construction of party branches in colleges and universities mainly includes five aspects: organization construction, promotion of center work, party member education and management, organize activities, and support and guarantee. The full score of each indicator is 100 points.

“Organization building” mainly includes three aspects: party branch establishment, branch committee configuration, and party branch secretary selection. During the inspection process, it is required to set up party branches and branch committees in accordance with the “Work Regulations of CPC Branches (Trial)”, that is, “the secretary of the teaching and working party branch should be held by the backbone of teaching, scientific research and management.” At the same time, attention should be paid to the allocation of the “dual leader” of the teacher's party branch secretary, and the guidance, training and learning of the student’s party branch secretary. “Promoting central work” mainly includes playing the role of a fighting fortress of the party branch, playing a role model of party members, strengthening ideological guidance, implementing the concept of moral education, serving school teachers, students and central work. “Education and management of party members” mainly includes the development, education, management and incentive care of party members, which requires colleges and universities to put political standards in the first place, make good use of the platform of “Learning Power” app, and strengthen the establishment of learning party branches. “Organization activities” mainly include “three meetings and one lesson”, life meetings, conversations, democratic appraisal activities, party-day activities, and party leader organization. This indicator requires the leadership of party members to participate in the daily activities of their party branch or group as ordinary party members, such as party class, conversations, criticism and self-criticism activities. “Support and guarantee” mainly includes work responsibility mechanism, contact grass-roots mechanism, job review and evaluation mechanism, job security mechanism as well as supervision and inspection mechanism. This indicator requires the establishment of a construction work responsibility system of “Unified leadership of the party committee in colleges, catching the head of organization departments, close cooperation of various departments, direct leadership of secondary party organization, and specific implementation of party branches”. Party leaders should keep close contact with party branches, provide funding and preferential policy support, and improve the appraisal and assessment of party branch secretaries.

3.2. Requirements for High-quality Construction of Party Branches

In accordance with the “Three-year Action Plan for ‘Improving Quality and Efficiency’ for the Construction of Party Branches in Jiangsu Universities in the New Era (2019-2021)”, Jiangsu Province has formulated specific inspection indicators for the construction of Party branches in colleges and universities, including 5 major items and 46 small items. These evaluation indicators include 6 “one-vote veto” indicators for the key tasks and links in the standardization construction of party branches, which have become the prerequisites for approval and selection of high-quality party branches. At the same time, the “Three-year Action Plan” also proposed that college party committees need to score based on the inspection indicators. Those with 80 points and above are “standard party branches”, and those with less than 80 points or “one-vote veto” indicators that do not get full marks are “substandard party branches”. High-quality party branches should score 95 points and selected among the above-mentioned standard party branches, and it also must receive comprehensive

commendation awards such as advanced grassroots party organizations at school level and above.

The construction of high-quality party branches requires further consolidation on the basis of party branches that have reached the standard. Through vigorously carrying out the construction of learning, service-oriented, and innovative party branches, we will continue to promote its connotative and high-quality development. Party committees in colleges and universities should actively create party branch model, party member model, party branch secretaries' studios, and practical classroom of party member education, etc., and extensively carry out competition for commendation activities, cultivate advanced examples, so as to continuously promote the construction of high-quality party branches.

4. Current Situation and Dilemma of High-quality Construction of Party Branches in Colleges and Universities

4.1. Focus on Achievement, Despise Party Construction

According to the requirements of the “Three-Year Action Plan” of Jiangsu Province, college party branches should select outstanding party members with good political quality, strong professional ability, theoretical level, coordination ability, and high work skills as branch secretaries. In particular, the secretary of the party branch of teachers should be held by key personnel in teaching, scientific research and management. Secretary of teacher party branch is selected according to the requirements of “dual leader”. The secretary of the teaching staff party branch is mostly the main person in charge of the department, and the secretary of the teacher party branch is mostly the person in charge of the subject. The high-quality construction of the party branch requires the secretary to invest a certain amount of time and energy and work together with the committee members. In their daily work, they must control the index system and strive to achieve connotative and high-quality development on the basis of doing a good job in the standardization of the branch. However, in actual work, the secretaries of the teacher and teaching staff party branch invest a lot of energy in department management and scientific research, which results in the absence of party branch construction.

4.2. Lack of Enthusiasm for High-quality Construction

The high-quality construction of party branches is based on standardization. Some party branches can fulfill their tasks in strict accordance with the construction index system, but other party branches have insufficient stamina, which is mainly manifested in three aspects: First, the construction of party branches is biased towards general “indicator” construction and lacks “in-depth” construction. Second, some party branches rarely participate in the construction of schools and secondary colleges, and lack responsibility. Third, the vanguard role and model within the party branch has not been played out, and the effect of serving teachers and students has not been achieved.

4.3. Lack of Innovation in High-quality Construction.

The high-quality construction of the party branch needs to be combined with the actual situation and innovative ideas. We should make comprehensive use of various innovative means to strengthen the construction of party branches. However, there is a serious lack of innovative thinking in some party branches: first, the train of thought

and direction of high-quality construction of some party branches are not clear, and the work of high-quality construction is lack of goal. Second, the means of learning and education are single, the mode is fixed, and the use of e-learning platforms such as websites, Wechat official accounts, APP and new technologies is insufficient. It does not reflect the innovative form of party class learning and education of “going out” and “bringing in”. Third, the demonstration and service innovation of some party branches is insufficient, and there is a lack of new ideas and methods.

5. Path Selection for High-quality Construction of College Party Branches

5.1. Strengthen the Training of Party Branch Secretaries

The training of party branch secretaries is an important means to improve the effectiveness of branch construction. The training of party branch secretaries in colleges and universities should take into account the problems in the construction process, and adopt various methods such as “online + offline”, “intramural + extramural”, and “centralized + decentralized”: First, strengthen political education. Persist in enriching the thinking with Xi Jinping’s Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era. Guide the party branch secretary to improve his political vision and work enthusiasm, balance his business and party affairs, and increase investment in party building work. Second, strengthen experience education. Promote the exchange and publicity of the quality construction experience of party branches, such as learning and referencing the quality construction experience of other schools, or inviting outstanding party branch secretaries to introduce their own work experience. Third, strengthen innovation and technology education. Party branches must learn to use new technologies to improve learning efficiency and service effects.

5.2. Strengthen the Guidance and Support of the Party Branch

The internal strength of the party branch is limited, so the high-quality construction of the party branch needs the support and encouragement of the higher-level party organization. This is mainly reflected in the following three aspects: First, the higher-level party organization needs to formulate specific construction plans and provide guidance opinions provide a reference for the construction of the party branch. Second, strengthen the relationship between the leadership of party members and the party branch. Party members and leading cadres must go to the grassroots level to understand and promptly resolve the specific problems and difficulties in the process of high-quality construction of party branches. Third, the school party committee must issue funding for grassroots party branches in accordance with standards. For example, setting up party member activity rooms and providing corresponding venues and equipment to provide funds, venues and equipment support for the high-quality construction of party branches.

5.3. Implement Detailed Assessment and Incentive Regulations

In addition to internal planning and superior guidance, the high-quality construction of party branches can not do without the incentive function of assessment: First, formulate detailed evaluation criteria for Party branch secretaries and strictly implement them. According to the work achievements of the party branch secretary, we should give criticism education or honor award in due time. Second, strengthen

supervision and inspection. We should strengthen the inspection of the construction of party branches, regularly guide the construction of party branches, and timely solve the problems. Third, cultivate advanced models and models. Do a good job in evaluation and commendation, and give publicity and material rewards to advanced models.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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