

Research on the Construction of Characteristic High-Level Disciplines in Financial Institutions

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ABSTRACT

In order to enhance the comprehensive strength of China's higher education, we need to speed up the construction of first-class universities and first-class disciplines and realize the concentric development of higher education. Therefore, local financial and economic universities should grasp the opportunity to improve the quality of higher education and strive to build characteristic high-level disciplines. In this paper, we analyze the gap of discipline construction between the local financial institutions and the first-class universities. Then, we expound the basic idea of constructing the characteristic high-level discipline. Furthermore, we provide the discipline construction measures of financial institutions including the construction of characteristic disciplines, the building of discipline integration, the cohesion of scientific research and the promotion of industrial and academic innovation. Finally, we prove that the construction of featured high-level disciplines in local financial universities can realize the ecological balance of disciplines, consolidate the construction of school resources, serve the local economy and realize rapid development.

Keywords: Double feature, high-level discipline, subject construction, first-class discipline

1. INTRODUCTION

The "Thirteenth Five-Year Plan" period (2016-2020) is an important period for China to improve the quality of higher education, accelerate the comprehensive reform and promote the construction of "double first-class" universities and "characteristic high-level" disciplines. At the same time, this period is a crucial stage for Jilin University of Finance and Economics. Through the efforts to improve the quality of personnel training and scientific research level, our university stands for becoming a doctorate authorization unit [1]. Domestic universities take active actions to bring the "double first-class" construction into a new process. Higher education transforms into a critical period of hierarchical development. The Department of Education of Jilin Province has accordingly issued a document on the construction of "dual-characteristic" provincial key universities, namely to build characteristic disciplines and characteristic universities. Local universities seize historical opportunities and strive to build distinctive high-level disciplines. However, there are differences in external factors such as policy treatment, allocation of educational resources, financial support, and other internal factors such as educational philosophy, management philosophy and development philosophy [2]. Local financial institutions still face many constraints in entering the ranks of first-class universities. Under this situation, local financial and economic institutions should shift their focus to the construction of high-level disciplines under the guidance

of the national "double first-class" strategy and the "dual characteristics" policy of Jilin Province. In the upcoming "Fourteenth Five-Year Plan" period, universities should not only continue to strengthen the synergy between basic disciplines and applied disciplines but also integrate discipline construction and talent training [3]. This article discusses how to construct characteristic high-level discipline in local financial and economic universities.

2. DISCIPLINE CONSTRUCTION GAP BETWEEN LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND DOUBLE FIRST-CLASS UNIVERSITIES

2.1. Overall Strength of the Discipline

According to the local characteristics of finance and economics, Jilin University of Finance and Economics has deepened the construction of special disciplines and made corresponding achievements. During the "13th Five-Year Plan" period, our university has been approved class A doctor's degree authorization unit project construction in universities and the qualification for master push from the school. The master's degree in foreign language and literature was authorized as a first-level discipline. At the same time, three new professional master's degree authorization categories were added, namely insurance, journalism and communication, library and information. Among the 9 first-level disciplines in our university, 8 of them have been selected as the featured high-level

disciplines in Jilin Province, which is an increase of 1.5 percentage points over the “12th Five-Year Plan” period. These achievements highlight the advantages and characteristics of the discipline construction in our university. The final review results of the characteristic high-level discipline in Jilin Province show that theoretical economics is the first-class discipline A, applied economics is the first-class discipline B, business administration is the dominant characteristic discipline A and, law, management science and engineering, statistics, Marxist theory, public management are the dominant characteristic discipline B.

According to the results of the fourth round of the national discipline assessment, we compare the business administration, theoretical economics and applied economics of three universities in Jilin Province. The results are shown in Table 1.

As can be seen observed from the following table, there is still a large gap between our university and the first-class universities. The business administration discipline of our university has obtained B- grade, the theoretical economics has obtained C grade, and the applied economics has obtained C+ grade. Both theoretical economics and applied economics of Northeast Normal University obtained B- grade. Among the three universities, Jilin University is the strongest. Jilin University received A- grade in business administration and B+ grade in theoretical economics and applied economics.

2.2. Scientific Research Level

During the “13th Five-Year Plan” period, our university implemented the “scientific research project cultivation plan”, which was approved by 12 National Social Science Foundation projects and 6 National Natural Science Foundation projects. In 2018, our university teachers received a total of 7.1685 million yuan of research funding, published 424 papers in core journals, among which 6 papers were included in SSCI and 38 papers were included in SCI and published 93 high-level academic monographs. Moreover, our teachers and foreign scholars jointly published 19 academic papers. Also, 11 teachers were successfully funded by the “Chunhui Project” of the Chinese Ministry of Education.

In 2018, our university won 1 minister-level achievement award, 16 Jilin provincial social science achievement awards and 13 municipal social science awards. The research center of socialist political economy with Chinese characteristics was approved, and five provincial-level key research bases for humanities and social sciences and one provincial-level think tank were added. The President’s Special Fund Project of Jilin University of Finance and Economics was launched and 45 projects were approved. We held 421 academic reports, 10 academic forums and 3 international academic conferences, such as “International Conference on Global Business, Marketing and Tourism” and “11th International Conference on E-commerce and E-government Management”. Teachers have attended 23 international academic conferences in the United States, Australia and Japan. Statistics of research projects and expenditure in the medium-term on the “13th Five-Year Plan” for reform and development are shown in Figure 1. In the past three years, both the number of research projects and funding has been greatly improved, especially in 2018, which has increased by 112.9% and 119.6% respectively compared with the previous years.

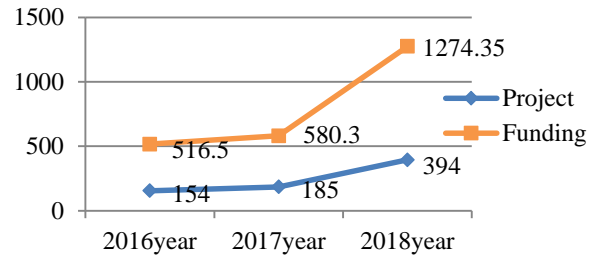


Figure 1 Research projects and funding of Jilin University of Finance and Economics in the mid-term of the “13th five-year plan”

3. CAUSES OF PROBLEMS IN DISCIPLINE CONSTRUCTION

Most local colleges and universities have a short time and limited conditions to run their schools, weak research strength and insufficient ability to pool resources [4]. Therefore, they are faced with a series of difficulties and problems in constructing the disciplines with regional characteristics.

Table 1 Subject evaluation results of three universities in Jilin Province

University Name	Business administration	Theoretical economics	Applied economics
Jilin University	A-	B+	B+
Northeast Normal University		B-	B-
Jilin University of Finance and Economics	B-	C	C+

3.1. Inaccurate Positioning and Irrational Structure for Discipline

The discipline construction must be precisely positioned. When we make the discipline plan, we should choose key disciplines according to our conditions and the requirements of regional development, so as to determine the strategic goals of the university construction. Some universities ignore the basis of the discipline, regardless of the actual needs of society and the internal laws of the discipline development. Some universities expand blindly and add new subjects. And some universities blindly merge, which results in the foundation of the subject is too weak to improve the level of the subject [5]. In the end, the discipline structure is seriously unbalanced. There are some problems in the construction of fundamental disciplines in local universities, such as the convergence of research directions, the lack of individual and high-level achievements, and the obvious characteristics of disciplines [6].

3.2. Insufficient Social Service Ability of Discipline, Separation of Production and Study

On the one hand, the subject construction is not highly correlated with local economic construction. Thus discipline construction and local economic construction have not yet fully formed a benign interaction, and the ability of discipline to directly serve local economic and social development is very limited. On the other hand, the development of application-oriented disciplines cannot meet the demand of society, which is a common problem in local universities [7]. To some extent, it restricts the development of universities and the ability to directly serve the local economic and social development.

4. MEASURES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FEATURED HIGH-LEVEL DISCIPLINES IN LOCAL UNIVERSITY

4.1. Developing Distinctive Disciplines

4.1.1. Steadily promoting featured disciplines in financial institutions

According to the education target and the service target, our university is located in local characteristics of finance and economics, in pursuit of value orientation of financial institutions construction. We should improve the inherent quality of courses and go deep into all disciplines to form local financial advantage. Moreover, we should maximize the connotation of the university to form a unique high-level university of finance and economics with

international influence, domestic fame, principle prominent status and distinctive characteristics. At the same time, we improve the construction project of subject connotation, optimize the discipline structure and improve the discipline layout. Our university should focus on the advantages and highlight the characteristic disciplines of finance and economics. We seek innovation in the steady development and create the strategic development direction of characteristic disciplines of finance and economics.

4.1.2. Deepening the reform of discipline construction mechanism

Our university has been firmly grasping the laws of higher education and subject development, and has been continuously promoting the reform of the subject system and mechanism. By integrating the resources of discipline construction, we have implemented the construction of cross-college and first-level disciplines. In order to implement the classified management and hierarchical construction, the subjects classify into three levels: dominant subjects, emerging subjects and basic subjects. Responsibility system of chief scientist is implemented and the principal responsibility of discipline construction is clarified. Besides, a “five-in-one” new model of discipline construction is established, which covers the following five aspects: team building, talent training, cooperation and exchange, scientific research and academic platform. Finally, we should develop project performance appraisal and dynamic management, and allocate funds according to the construction results. Under the new measures, our university further defines the discipline construction ideas, basic principles, construction projects, construction tasks, project management and guarantee methods. These new tasks of discipline construction are the main measures to break the bottleneck of discipline development, and also an important reform in the history of discipline construction in our university [8].

4.2. Demonstrating Diversity and Integration

First, we should follow the discipline development law, pay attention to the demonstration, guidance and radiation function of the dominant disciplines and further promote the cross-penetration and collaborative development of disciplines. Secondly, we keep up with the academic frontier research, adapt to the needs of the national strategy and serve the local economic and industrial development. Thirdly, our university should guide to solve major national and regional problems, foster new interdisciplinary discipline, establish new growing points and discipline advantages. A new pattern is created which includes coordinated development of dominant disciplines, emerging disciplines, basic subject and interdisciplinary. We build an ecological system of the disciplines. Then, we make use of the dominant subjects to build a group of

disciplines, expand the coverage of disciplines, promote interdisciplinary and coordinated development, and seek for new disciplinary growth points. We strengthen the overall importance of discipline construction, optimize its structure, and promote its integration. Moreover, we expand the foundation, characteristics, and frontiers of disciplines, develop the concepts of major disciplines, and build a group of superior disciplines.

Because of management science and engineering disciplines, we combine the characteristics of finance and economics to form a unique discipline. For example, the college of management science and information engineering has a key laboratory platform of Internet finance in Jilin province, which integrates computer, big data and finance majors in the university and cultivates talents proficient in financial engineering related knowledge. It is a model of interdisciplinary integration.

4.3. Cohesion of Scientific Research

For the scientific research management system, we improve the evaluation mechanism and deepen the reform of the regime to get a breakthrough in the achievement of scientific research projects. Then, we formulate the research workload management methods and research reward methods, and encourage academic teams to innovate and tackle key problems. In addition, we develop a system of coordinating and sharing research resources at the school level. In terms of scientific achievements, one of the main objectives is to publish high-level papers. We ensure that graduate students are important participants in the school's research work, and take the publication of high-level papers as the talent training orientation. Another goal is to continue to achieve the establishment of national projects and national research awards. Therefore, we set up the national project application steering committee and research teams of the college to ensure the high quality of project application [9]. We invite subject experts to give targeted guidance.

4.4. Promoting Industry-University Collaborative Innovation

4.4.1. Play the role of the research think tank

We establish the key research bases of humanities and social science that are supported by the government and the enterprise. We focus on cultivating and building several high-end think tanks by accelerating the transformation of scientific research achievements, integrating resources on campus, and attracting talents from outside. We accelerate the establishment of a mechanism for in-depth connection with government departments. At the same time, specialized and precise social services are carried out, and policy research and decision consultation research are involved. With

high-level and significant scientific research achievements to serve national development, highlighting the university as an important financial think tank.

4.4.2. Promoting the transformation of scientific research achievements

To meet the needs of the society, we make use of the school-enterprise cooperation platform to coordinate project research and development, accelerate the transformation of scientific research achievements. A new situation of integrated development of "production, learning and research" has been created. In order to meet the needs of big data in finance, business, tax, Internet and other industries, we work with leading Internet big data enterprises to carry out the research and development of big data generic key technologies, industry big data analysis and achievement transformation. We establish the incubation mechanism and carrier, cooperate with leading big data enterprises and well-known venture capital institutions. We support researchers and students to innovate and start businesses, and actively cultivate innovative enterprises in the field of big data [10]. We use scientific research achievements to serve the local tax system, closely track the adjustment of national tax policy. We make active contributions to the knowledge update, policy interpretation, business training and continuing education of tax system cadres by utilizing the training resources in our university. In cooperation with the state administration of taxation, our university has jointly established the tax research institute for large enterprises in China. We bring together domestic academic and practice experts in the field of national fiscal and taxation to promote academic research and practical innovation [11]. Experts provide decision-making consultation for the reform of China's tax collection and management system, and many achievements have been approved by relevant government leaders.

5. CONCLUSION

Under the background of the construction of "Double First-Class" universities in China and "Double Characteristic" universities in Jilin Province, local universities must take advantage of unique discipline, promote the discipline integration, build discipline echelon, follow the steps of scientific research, deepen international cooperation and push the innovation in production. The aim is to build into a featured high-level discipline in local financial institutions.

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