

# Research on the Path of Enhancing the Development of University Student's Associations

Lanlan Fei

College of Biosystem Engineering and Food Science  
Zhejiang University  
Hangzhou, China 310007

**Abstract**—Colleges and universities are critical places to train builders and successors of socialism. Under the new situation, the goal and positioning of talent development in universities is no longer restricted to coaching traditional knowledge, but putting the improvement of students' ability, quality and the shaping of their personality into a more important position. Students' associations as critical carriers and the important component of the 2<sup>nd</sup> class, play an important role in increasing students' capabilities and qualities, as well as forming positive and healthy personalities. Universities should enhance the associations' management in a scientific manner, encourage and guide students' associations to carry-out high-quality activities, cultivate the enthusiasm in participation and fully take the advantages of associations in training talents.

**Keywords**—*construction of associations; research; talent development*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Along with the increasing trend of economic globalization, modern society takes the development of human resources as a critical point in the strategic planning, and even considers talents as the most important strategic resources. Universities as the most important place to train builders and successors of socialism, carry on great responsibilities in training and delivering excellent talents for communist party and the country. Under the new situation, the goal and positioning of educating talents in universities is no longer restricted to coaching traditional knowledge. Two outlines from Ministry of Education "The Outline of National Medium and Long Term Talents Development Plan" and "The Outline of National Medium and Long Term Education Reform and Development Plan (2010-2020)", have put clear requirements on the goal and mode of talent development, reform and innovation of evaluation system, which requires universities to put the improvement of students' ability, quality and personality re-shaping in a more important position.

Associations of university students as critical carriers and the important components of the 2<sup>nd</sup> class, composed by interests and hobbies of students under their willingness, are massive student organizations where their rules and regulations are followed to carry out activities in order to realize the common wishes of members [1]. Under the new

situation, with the increasing interests and hobbies of young university students, their specialities have become more and more obvious, which boots the development of students' associations to be more flourishing day by day. Students' associations have been converted to a major base where students can self-educate, expand qualities and grow, a indispensable part of university campus [2]. How to make use of the features of the association, guide and manage it in a scientific and effective way to promote a healthy and thriving development of the student's association, and make it play an important role in talent training, which is a topic worthy being studied.

Based on the relevant requirement of "Opinions on Further Enhancing and Improving the Work of Propaganda and Ideology in Colleges and Universities under the New Situation and Opinions on the Central Committee of the Communist Party of on Strengthening and Improving the Work of the League Organization", the league organization of universities should further standardize the management of associations, improve the mechanism and system, encourage and guide students' associations to carry out themed, healthy and colorful online and offline activities, stimulate the participation of individuals, constantly deepen the educational function of students' associations to better show their advantages in training talents.

## II. CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES OF STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

With the constant deepening of the reform in teaching system of universities, especially with the implementation of "General Education" and "Credit System", the influence of the class is getting reduced, while the impact and force of students' associations, such massive students' organizations formed by interests, hobbies and willingness are getting stronger, appearing prosperity situation.

Currently, students' associations of universities are generally divided into ideological and political categories, academic and technological categories, innovation and entrepreneurship categories, cultural and sports categories, voluntary public welfare categories, self-discipline and mutual assistance and so on. Overall they have 5 characteristics and features:

- Initial scale of systematic construction of association's courses has been shaped. University students' associations have gradually become a critical component of the 2<sup>nd</sup> class, and the students are playing an important role in the diverse community culture, who have formed the main force in developing the community culture and have made the organizations grow bigger and bigger, meanwhile this also offers university students opportunities to get self-trained and self-improved. With the work in expanding students' qualities, the constructions of systematic association's courses will be further developed.
- Initiative, open and innovative characteristics in the contents and forms of association's activities. Nowadays university students are quite updated-to-date and creative. They can grab the pulse of time, like carrying out innovative and influential activities. The contents and forms of associations are flexible where students are able to constantly show their talents, being creative, challenge and surpass themselves [4]. Innovation in traditions is almost every member's idea.
- Socialized characteristics in the scope of association's activities. University students are living in the ivory tower all the time, so they are filled with curiosities and expectations over the society outside the campus. Many students use associations as a step-up to get out of campus and actively involve in social activities, combine theories with realities and blend themselves in the social life. On the social stage, their abilities have been trained, experiences have been accumulated and new spaces of developing self qualities have been expanded.
- Students-oriented characteristics in management. The important reason why student associations have strong vitality is that they are formed voluntarily according to students' interests and hobbies. In the associations, everyone participates in organizing and managing activities with the attitude of hosts in order to make the common wishes come true. From the registration of associations till the opening, planning and carrying out activities, as well as the daily management, these are all completed by the students themselves under the supervision of the professors. Students are considered to be the masters of the associations, especially in the aspect of management.
- The role of education in ideology and morality within the associations has been strengthened and the construction of the Party & League has been substantially carried out. It has become a general consensus to carry out ideological and moral construction and party organization construction in student associations [6]. So far, some universities have already tried to set up the youth league branch, which provides ideas in enriching association's activities and guarantees the quality. This has significant influence in gathering students'

associations around party league organizations very closely and strengthening the cohesion and combat capacities of associations.

### III. CONSTRUCTION PATH OF STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

All kinds of associations advance bravely and various featured activities flourish. The driving force behind the prosperity is coming from the uniqueness of associations. The author thinks we need to focus on the top layer design based on mastering the characteristics of associations, inspire students' associations to increase the university students' abilities and qualities at the farthest, and shape healthy personalities with positive effects.

- Strengthen the leadership of organizations and improve the mechanism in management. "The Interim Measures in Management of University Students' Associations" issued jointly by the Central Committee of the League, the Ministry of Education and the All-China Students' Federation clearly points out that, the party committee of universities needs to unify the work of students' associations of their own, include strengthening and improving the work of students' associations as the implementation of Party's education policies and the promotion of quality education to the entire work of universities. In fulfilling the main managerial functions of the student associations in universities, the League committees should set up special administrative departments with staff to effectively undertake the establishment, annual examination, cancellation, organizational construction, activity management, fund management and job security of student associations. While strengthening the organizational leadership, we should also constantly enhance the institutionalization and standardization of student associations. The rapid turnover of members is also an obvious feature of associations. Only by improving the management system of associations can advance the sustainable development of associations.
- Enhance the resources integration and the support for associations. The ever important condition of scientific management is to develop the resource integrator and provide support and guarantee. At present, there are many deficiencies in the construction and development of associations, such as weak teachers' guidance and lack of funds, etc. Universities should further fight for all types of resources, strengthen the support and guidance for association's activities. Firstly is to implement the standardization, with associations federations as autonomous management bodies, to standardize the operational procedures of associations from the aspects of sign-up, registration and management. Secondly, strengthen the guidance, equip relevant professional instructors and guidance units to provide professional and technical support for the improvement of the activity's level. Thirdly, we should establish a guarantee mechanism, set up a special fund for associations, focus on supporting

excellent associations, build and improve the declaration procedures of associations' activities, introduce a healthy competition way for students to plan and organize large-scaled activities independently, and inspire students' autonomy and creativity to a greater extent.

- Clarify the management ideas and establish the core hierarchical and classified management mode with the core "exquisite project" of associations. The development of students' associations is not balanced, and activities are not measured with standards, which require the youth league to guide different types of associations in a different way, encourage and propose ideological and political type of associations, support and coach academic, scientific and technological, innovative and entrepreneurial associations, helping and guiding voluntary public welfare, self-disciplined and mutual-aid associations, guiding and activating cultural and sports related associations. We should improve the cooperation between student unions and associations, realize the "self-education, self-management and self-service" through associations, meanwhile introduce competition and incentive mechanism by selecting "student's associations models" and "excellent student's associations" to guide the direction of association cultural development.
- Strengthen the construction of the leading team and form excellent leader team of associations. The youth league needs to educate and train the responsible person via regular theme lectures, case analysis, live practice and foreign exchange such forms in order to increase the leaders' ideological awareness, comprehensive quality and professional level, strengthen the management and guidance of the association, stimulate students' active thinking and vigorous energy, cultivate students' sensitivities to new things, and guide students to carry out activities with creative minds. We should strengthen the construction of the Party organization, closely unite the college students around the Party organizations, and guide them to strive for excellence in the activities of associations.
- Stimulate the awareness of self-participation and guide students to improve the quality of ability during participation. University time is a golden period for youth students to train and increase personal abilities since they are full of energy and curiosity over new things and willing to make efforts. The value of association's activities lies in the perfect combination between its wide participation and greater educational and learning meanings. "To pursuit the development within activities", association's culture resulted by colorful activities has become a rich land where university students can enrich their personalities and develop their qualities. Through good atmosphere created by activities, the league needs to make students realize the important role of association's activities is playing in self-ability training and quality

improvement, as a result, to inspire their awareness in participating association's activities proactively. Colorful and various activities is good for students to increase their abilities in autonomy, initiative, creativity and practicalness. Through the process of activities, students can feel constantly the different requirements from the outside world, and such requirements are interpreted internally during activities where the potential of individuals could be gradually discovered in order to increase the comprehensive abilities of their own.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Training and developing university associations is not a simple investment, service and management over associations. Above all, we must follow and implement the educational policies of communist party, adhere to the basic guidance of people-orientation, through increasing the sophistication and level of association's activities, attract university students to actively participate all kinds of activities. Within the associations, carry out various theme-based, healthy and colorful online and offline activities, train students the abilities in social responsibilities, creative spirits and practical capabilities, improve the students' comprehensive qualities, take full advantage of talent training via associations to cultivate the growth of students, train more builders and successors of socialist cause with wealthy knowledge, excellent ability, quality and personality for the communist party and the country.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] The Interim Measures in Management of University Students' Associations, issued jointly by the Central Committee of the League, the Ministry of Education and the All-China Students' Federation, 2016-01-14 (in Chinese).
- [2] Biao Ying, Chunfeng Lü, Support, Guide and Management — Thinking over training of associations from ZheJiang Universit, China Higher Education Research, 2004:12 (in Chinese).
- [3] Xijun Shi, Characteristics, effects and paths of constructions of university's associations, Ideological and Political Education Research, 2002:2 (in Chinese).
- [4] Qiquan Yu, Discussion on the operational and managerial principles of university's associations, School Party Building and Ideological Education, 2005:1 (in Chinese).
- [5] Weifang Wang, Problems and solutions of development of university student's associations, China Youth Study, 2004:7 (in Chinese).