Reflections on the Educational Governance of Private Universities--Taking Xijing University as an Example

Ying Wang
School of Design and Art
Xijing University
308666892@qq.com

Abstract—As a new management thought and practice, educational governance has its own important significance. As an important force in private education, Xijing University insists on the education of students' satisfaction. With such feelings, educational governance can really play its due role. It is the ultimate goal of a private university to educate every student. Therefore, studying the educational governance of private universities has important reference significance for future educational research. At the same time, it will have a corresponding impact on the modernization of the educational management system in the new era.

Keywords—Educational governance; Private universities

I. INTRODUCTION

The place where I work is a rather special organization, which is a university's second-level college called Xingjian Academy. It is especially so because the academy's cultivating students goal are not the same as for other second-level colleges. At present, I mainly face four governance issues, below I will discuss the following aspects of governance issues facing the organization. First of all, according to these four governance issues, explain what is education governance? Second, what is the educative purpose of governance? Third, analysis of what worldviews and orientations shape the idea of governance? Fourth, analysis shows who participates in education governance.

II. INITIAL VIEWS ABOUT GOVERNANCE IN MY ORGANIZATION

In my opinion, governance is an approach what organizations use to change the status quo. Say concretely, it is a method to reverse the problems and hidden dangers in the development of an organization. We need to find ways to essentially solve the factors that hinder the development of organization. The goal of my organization is to cultivate excellent students better and make more students pass the postgraduate entrance examination smoothly. However, my organization currently has some problems with governance. That is how we let students take the initiative to learn? How to make students take the initiative to participate in some competitions and extracurricular practices? How to set up the course that interests to students? These problems need to be dealt with, because these problems have hindered the development of the organization. It is very challenging to solve these problems, so it is a dilemma for me. Before solving these issues, let me first analyze the university where I work. First of all, our school is a private university and its status in the community is not as good as that of some public universities. This makes some students doubt their own abilities. They always think that their abilities are not comparable to those students of public universities, so they gradually become less confident. This makes some students lack enthusiasm in doing things. Secondly, some students have a poor ability to adapt to the environment. From high school to university, they are not yet adapt to their studies life. Some students are accustomed to their previous passive learning. Therefore, their learning initiative is so poor. So my governance program can not be implemented smoothly. Through learning, I think governance is to discovery the problems in our organization, to find solutions, eliminate problems and hidden dangers, so as to reverse the situation. Ensure that the organization can move forward in a normal and fast way to achieve the organization's expected goal. Third, our college currently focuses most of its attention on senior students learning. However, the freshmen nowadays have ample free time and they really want to be able to learn what they are interested in after school. But the academy now has less investment in freshmen and not set up the course that interests to them. This is not good for students to enhance their personal abilities. Therefore, how to set up the course that interests to students, it is a dilemma for me.

III. Analysis of School Educational Governance

‘Focusing on the educational aspect of governance, the term educational governance has used to describe diverse approaches to designing, funding and managing education to benefit learners, organizations and wider society (Coward, 2010, p.710) will analyze it from a different perspective, based on the governance issues that the organization now faces. First of all, the enthusiasm of students for autonomous learning is poor because from high school to university, students are free to study. The teacher does not always supervise students' learning. Therefore, our teacher should communicate more with the students and analyze the problems of the students. Interact with students in class, let students interested in the curriculum, so that students can take the initiative to learn. Secondly, in order to encourage students to actively participate in competitions and activities, we should formulate some incentives so that students can benefit from it. Thirdly, students have a lot of spare time, some students use this time to play games and sleep. From teacher's perspective, this is a waste of precious time. We should change this phenomenon. Schools should provide students with some meaningful after-school activities and
courses. ‘Rather than a narrow focus on procedures, processes and outcomes in educational governance, the topic takes the view that governing bodies need to be robust, effective social systems’. (Sonnenfeld, 2002, p. 109) For the problems that my organization now needs to improve, we should also make some systems that will allow us to more scientifically and more regulate solve the problems existing in the organization. Fourth, some students do not have a good plan for their own learning. To help them learn more effectively, we should help students to make their own learning plans. So that we invite outstanding teachers to talk with students for two hours, to help students develop a scientific learning plan.

IV. What is the educative purpose of governance?

The educative purpose of governance is to solve the hidden problems in the organization so that the organization can develop healthily. ‘Different vision for the good society affects the way education is organized and governed, whether or not dissent is allowed, who participates in deciding on reconciliation and what they are allowed to talk about’. (Rogers, 2013) Based on this question, I will analyze the four issues that my organization needs to govern. First of all, through the governance, to standardize the education methods of talents cultivating. Before carrying out any educational activities, we must constantly revise our training objectives around educational purposes. Only in this way can we reach the goal of our plan and eliminate the hidden danger. Second, through the governance, make the curriculum setting and teaching content more standardized. Curriculum is the entity of school education practice, and the teaching content is based on the specific course. What kind of curriculum is offered and what is teaching content is decided by the school’s talents cultivating objectives and educational goals. Third, the problem to be solved by governance is how to motivate students to take part in competitions and to help students make learning plans so that students can take the initiative to learn. Make students understand that they need make plans in their study life, according to their own learning plans to complete each learning task. In this process, constantly improve the ability of students. Fourthly, how to set up curriculum that students are interested in. The educative purpose of this governance is to enable students to exert their own specialty to a greater extent so that students can make greater progress in their areas of expertise. ‘If you use "educational significance" to describe something, it means that it is "beneficial to learners"’. (Coward, 2010, p. 710) The educative purpose of governance is to benefit learners, through the system making, standardize management, governance the hidden dangers exist in the organizations. All in all, ‘education governance is learning governance’. (Nixon, Walker, Carr, 2004, p. 165) In my organizational governance process, we are actually implementing learning governance and solving the hidden dangers in learning.

V. WHAT WORLDVIEWS SHAPE THE IDEA OF GOVERNANCE?

‘These meanings are shared by groups of people. At any one time, there may be a be a range of competing perspectives held by different groups and subgroups, some of whom will have greater access to making their perspective more dominant in the political sphere’. (Carter, Banfield, O’Donoue, & Brennan, 2009) The emergence of a correct concept of governance, that is, the result of accurately grasping the scientific world outlook and epistemology, is also a crystallization of the flexible application of scientific methodology. Understanding and grasping the general situation of current development, proceeding from objective laws, studying and understanding scientific theories and thinking on development issues are the world views that form the concept of scientific governance. Use scientifically the latest achievements of materialist dialectics. In addition to, the correct attitude towards contradictions is to confront the contradictions directly. It is imperative to promote the development of things in the process of resolving the contradictions and face the contradictions. At the same time, we should balance prominent conflicts among different organizations and industries and enhance the integrity of governance. Governance philosophy is a changing process, the governance environment and governance conditions will not be static, the face of new governance issues, some things that used to be effective, and now may not be effective, some outdated, but now imperative, the new concept of governance put forward new requirements for us, so we need to keep up with the times, and we must clearly understand the law of development. Therefore, we must adopt the concept of development, contradiction and innovation to view the issue of governance so that our idea of governance can be more comprehensive, more capable and more scientific. ‘The sociological use of the term ideology refers to a group philosophy—a broadly interlocked set of ideas and beliefs about the world held by a group of people that they demonstrate in both behaviour and conversation to various audiences’. (Meighan & Harber, 2007, p. 212) Through solve the four problems that make me dilemma, In my opinion, the worldview that shape the idea of governance is the concept of the current state education development and the demand of all people for education. Therefore, this concept of educational governance has been formed.

VI. WHO GETS TO PARTICIPATE IN EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND HOW ?

In our country, the educational institutions involved in education governance are mainly the bureau of education and schools. ‘The actual functions of such a governing body and the support given through organizational arrangements are relevant as is the opportunity for process of learning and development rather than to static assessments of current ability’. (Robinson et al., 2003, p. 264) Educational governance is a major issue that affects the development of a country and is also a link that every university must go through. From a national point of view, the issue of educational governance has become a prominent social issue in China. The people involved in this issue are not only the leaders of schools, teachers, students, parents and other social persons, all of whom have responsibilities and obligations to participate in educational governance. Take my organization as an example, school, university leaders, teachers, parents and students are major players in educational governance. The school implements the system of regular meetings, give work task assignment on a regular basis, and arranges the related work of educational governance. Academy leaders according to job requirements, the college governance authority assigned to each member, each member according to their job responsibilities, responsible for their own part of governance. Managers carry out
their own educational governance by entering classrooms, humbly learning, exchange with teachers on an equal footing. ‘It is important that student perceptions and recommendations be responded to and not merely treated as minor footnotes in an unaltered adult text’.(Fielding & Prieto, 2002, p.20) Students are one of the main components of a university and they are very important because the main purpose of a university is to cultivate students to become elite. Make them contribute to the development of society and realize their own value. My organization attaches great importance to students’ ideas and suggestions in the process of educational governance. We mainly involve the students in the school's educational governance through such methods as principals reception day, joint meeting of students, teachers and students' forums and so on. Furthermore, ‘the active engagement of parents as agents and partners and of students as active learners rather than consumers, requires a re-orientation towards a more reciprocal relationship and at the same time potentially more agonistic in its recognition of difference’. (Nixon et al., 2004, p.176) My organization has set up a parent committee to involve parents in educational governance. With the support and encouragement of parents for education, our organizations can better solve the educational problems and hidden dangers that make us dilemma, in order to implement education programs more promptly, cultivate a group of elites who can contribute to the development of the country and society.

VII. CONCLUSION

Through studying this course of educational governance, I learned how to deal with some educational governance problems encountered in my daily work. Through the comprehensive analysis, I got a deeper understanding of the existing problems in my organization and industry. In the face of the four educational governance problems that our organizations now have to solve, I also need to proceed from the actual work and constantly overcome the difficulties in working, formulate a reasonable and effective governance system, adopt appropriate governance measures and strive to accomplish every task, try my best to solve the educational governance problem that I am facing.

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