

On the Operating Mechanism of the Party Government Joint Meeting System in School (Department) of Colleges and Universities

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Abstract: The party government joint meeting is the main carrier of party and government discussions in universities and colleges, and is a major institutional arrangement for implementing the fundamental mission of "educating people for the party and the country" in universities. With the reform and development of the grassroots leadership system and work mechanism in universities, the system of party government joint meetings has also exposed some problems. This article starts from the current situation of the operation of the party government joint meeting system in the governance of institutions (departments), explores how to improve the efficiency and level of party government joint meetings, and proposes policy suggestions on strengthening team building, improving meeting rules, and improving supervision systems.

Keywords: Universities and colleges, Party and government joint meetings, Rules of procedure.

1. Introduction

The system of party and government joint meetings is a working mechanism for the party and government leadership teams in universities to discuss and review important matters of their own units. It is also a system guarantee for implementing democratic centralism, collective leadership, and scientific decision-making. Improving the system of party government joint meetings in universities plays an indispensable role in strengthening the comprehensive leadership of the Party over university work, implementing the fundamental task of cultivating morality and talents, fully implementing the Party's educational policies, stimulating the vitality of the universities themselves, and promoting the high-quality development of schools and colleges.

2. The Current Operation Status of the Party Government Joint Meeting System in School (Department) of Colleges and Universities

Opinions of the Party Group of the Ministry of Education of the Communist Party of China on Strengthening the Construction of Grassroots Party Organizations in Ordinary Higher Education Institutions was issued in 2007, which pointed out the need to strengthen the construction of grassroots Party organizations in universities, establish and improve the system of party and government joint meetings, and important matters in the work of colleges (departments) should be collectively studied and decided through party and government joint meetings in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism. The party government joint meeting system has been proposed as a decision-making mechanism for the governance of university departments. The Regulations of the CPC on the Work of Grass roots Organizations in Regular Institutions of Higher Learning revised in 2021 continued the expression of the 2010 version: the party organization of the college (department) "discusses and decides on important matters of the unit through the joint

party and government meeting", which means that the joint party and government meeting system plays an increasingly important role in the governance structure of the college (department).

By analyzing and comparing the articles of association of domestic colleges and universities, it is found that since *the Regulations of the CPC on the Work of Grass roots Organizations in Ordinary Colleges and Universities (2021 Edition)* does not clearly state what matters need to be resolved at the joint party and government meeting, most colleges and universities' articles of association only mention that colleges (departments) need to go through the joint party and government meeting to review important matters and major decisions of the college, but the detailed discussion content is not unlimited. From the results of this survey questionnaire, it can be seen that in order to implement the party government joint meeting system more scientifically, all colleges (departments) of universities have basically issued detailed rules for the implementation of the party government joint meeting system in accordance with the requirements of the school's articles of association, and have refined the procedures and scope of discussions based on their respective work characteristics.

3. Problems in the Operation of the Party and Government Joint Meeting System in School (Department) of Colleges and Universities

Through organizing survey questionnaires and individual interview records, it can be seen that there are still areas of non-standard and imperfect operation of the party government joint meeting system in some universities (departments).

3.1. Insufficient clear functional positioning

Colleges (departments) in universities have established systems such as party and government joint meetings, party

committees, academic committees, and teaching supervision groups based on party, government, and academic affairs. However, due to the inadequate procedures and rules of procedure, the functional boundaries between different institutions are unclear, resulting in overlapping and overlapping scope of meeting discussions. Firstly, some colleges (departments) have almost decided on all aspects of party building, administration, teaching, and other matters through party government joint meetings. The powers of academic committees and professor committees are not reflected, and the unclear scope of deliberation makes it difficult for the college to carry out high-quality work. Secondly, there is a situation where the Party Government Joint Committee and the Party Committee replace each other. In 2021, the newly revised Regulations of the CPC on the Work of Grass roots Organizations in Ordinary Institutions of Higher Learning clearly pointed out that "matters involving the direction of running schools, the construction of teachers' teams, the vital interests of teachers, students and staff should be studied and discussed by the party organization before being submitted to the joint meeting of the party and government for decision". However, in practical work, some colleges submit matters that should have been discussed before the party organization meeting to the party government joint meeting for research without political scrutiny. Thirdly, excessive reliance on the party government joint meeting system leads to low work efficiency. As a grassroots organization of universities, the college integrates administrative management, talent cultivation, and teaching and research. With the expansion of independent management power, the college's transactional work gradually increases. If daily transactional work needs to be reviewed by the party government joint meeting, it will seriously affect the decision-making efficiency of the meeting and hinder the efficient operation of the college's various work.

3.2. Insufficient operational experience

With the continuous promotion of higher education reform and innovation, the focus of university management is constantly shifting downwards. The leadership team of the college (department) should not only coordinate and plan the development of the college, scientifically arrange resources such as good people, finance, and materials, but also actively explore how to integrate the party building work and business work of the college (department), and use party building to drive high-quality development in all aspects of the college (department). However, due to the mutual game between the political power, administrative power, and academic power of the college (department), some party and government leaders in the college (department) have problems with their respective roles, responsibilities, mutual distrust, and even shifting blame. Based on their respective professional qualities and performance considerations, the secretary of the college (department) focuses on the construction of grassroots party organizations to play the role of political leadership and ideological guidance of party organizations, while the administrative leadership mainly focuses on talent cultivation, discipline construction, and scientific research innovation achievements of the college (department). Therefore, the leaders of the Party and government lack the concept of scientific and comprehensive development, and the phenomenon of two skins is obvious. This has led to possible disagreements between the leadership team during the deliberation of the party government joint meeting, and in

severe cases, there may be a phenomenon of indecision, which affects the scientific operation of the party government joint meeting system.

3.3. Insufficient supervision and accountability

In *Modernization of Education in China 2035*, it is mentioned that "we need to improve the systems of legal advisors, councils, faculty and staff representative conferences, student representative conferences, academic committees, and other institutions in higher education institutions", improve democratic management and supervision organizations, and form a governance structure that restricts decision-making, execution, and supervision. However, after analyzing the articles of association of universities within the province, it was found that some colleges (departments) lack a balance mechanism between political and administrative power, and the supervision and inspection system is not perfect, without a true sense of power "supervision" and "restriction". Some colleges (departments) have inadequate systems for trade unions, Communist Youth League organizations, and faculty representative conferences, and the exercise of supervisory power by teachers and students can only be considered as personal behavior, resulting in low participation enthusiasm of teachers and students in democratic management and supervision. The lack of effective supervision can lead to a series of problems, such as some issues where the opinions and suggestions of faculty and staff were not widely solicited before the meeting, resulting in some systems and decisions of the college not reflecting the interests and requirements of the majority of faculty and staff; The lack of smooth information communication and insufficient deliberation among attendees has led to a decrease in the decision-making efficiency of the Party Government Joint Meeting; At the school level, some universities have insufficient supervision over the implementation of party government joint meetings in their colleges (departments), and the effectiveness of the party government joint meeting system has not been included in the evaluation indicators of the party government leadership team in the colleges (departments), which to some extent affects the effective operation of the party government joint meeting.

4. Suggestions for Optimizing the Operating Mechanism of the Party Government Joint Meeting System in School (Department) of Colleges and Universities

4.1. Strengthen ideological education and improve team building

The efficient operation of the party government joint meeting system cannot be separated from the scientific implementation of the implementers, and the key to implementation lies in the comprehensive quality of the leadership team. Firstly, guided by Xi Jinping's ideology of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, we need to improve the political literacy and theoretical level of the leadership team, achieve political reliability, and ensure the direction of socialist education. The party and government leaders of the college (department) should raise awareness, deeply understand the important position of the party and government joint meeting system in the governance of the college (department), and ensure that the core leadership role

of the party organization can be fully played. Secondly, in the selection of the leadership team, it is not only required to be politically determined and proficient in business, but also to comprehensively consider and reasonably allocate factors such as age structure, work experience, professional quality, personality and temperament, in order to promote mutual respect, communication and cooperation among members of the leadership team, and thereby leverage the advantages of the party government joint meeting system to form a strong joint force to jointly promote the sustainable development of the college (department).

4.2. Clarify the scope of the proceedings and standardize the proceedings

To ensure the smooth operation of the party government joint meeting system, having a system alone is not enough, but also requires a set of corresponding regulations to ensure its implementation. Firstly, it is necessary to establish the scope of discussion for the party government joint meetings of the college (department). Each college (department) should determine the scope of the party government joint meeting based on the "three important and one major" matters stipulated in the school's articles of association, combined with their own actual situation and work characteristics, through a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, including the development planning, talent cultivation, discipline construction, personnel management, teacher team construction, evaluation and evaluation, annual budget, revenue and expenditure of large funds, and security and stability of the college (department). The second is to standardize the proceedings of the party government joint meetings of the college (department). According to the implementation rules, the meeting is convened by the Secretary of the Party Committee or the President. After the office of the college (department) formulates the preliminary agenda, it is submitted to the party and government leaders for approval. Based on sufficient communication, the Secretary and the President determine the meeting agenda, attendees, and meeting time. The Office Director issues a meeting notice and collects and organizes the meeting materials. After thorough discussion before the meeting, the issue can effectively avoid unresolved issues during the meeting, thereby improving the efficiency of the party government joint meeting. If the issue involves the vital interests of faculty and staff, opinions and suggestions from faculty and staff should be solicited through teacher representative meetings or other forms before the meeting, in order to improve the degree of democratization of the meeting. When major issues related to the development of the college are discussed at the meeting, relevant personnel such as the academic committee and supervisory group should be invited to attend the meeting as nonvoting delegates to improve the level of deliberation at the party government joint meeting.

4.3. Improve information disclosure and supervision system

Establishing a sound supervision and inspection mechanism is the institutional guarantee for promoting the effective operation of the party government joint meetings of the hospital (department). One is to improve the information disclosure system. The content and results of the Party and Government Joint Meeting should be open and transparent, and can be communicated to the majority of faculty through various channels such as bulletin boards and e-government.

This will expand the right of faculty to know, improve the transparency of the Party and Government Joint Meeting, and voluntarily accept the supervision and inspection of faculty. Providing a smooth two-way feedback and supervision channel, enhancing the sense of participation and identification of faculty and staff in the affairs of the college, helps to smoothly implement the decisions made at the meeting within the college. The second is to improve the supervision and evaluation system. On the one hand, we will promote the normalization of the system for the discipline inspection commission of the college to attend party government joint meetings as a nonvoting delegate, and strengthen the supervision at the same level. At the same time, attention should be paid to the democratic supervision role of organizations such as teaching committees, trade unions, and faculty representative conferences. On the other hand, it is necessary to improve the comprehensive evaluation mechanism for the effectiveness of meeting decision-making execution. Targeted tracking and feedback should be provided on the implementation of decisions, and progress should be reported regularly. At the same time, based on indicators such as whether the decisions have been implemented, whether the implementation process is smooth, and whether the implementation results are obvious, corresponding assessment and evaluation mechanisms will be developed. At the end of the year, rewards or accountability will be given to the hospital (department) and responsible leaders based on the completion of the implementation.

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