

## On the Capabilities of College Counselors by Exploring the Status Quo of Building Undergraduate Communists' Vanguard Nature

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### Abstract

Enhancing the building of undergraduate communists' vanguard nature is conducive to improving their vigor and vitality, and to achieve the goal of cultivating talents in colleges and universities. As the organizers, practitioners, directors of undergraduates' ideological and moral education, college counselors are the backbone of carrying out the task of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature. This paper explores the status quo of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature and probes into the capabilities that college counselors should improve. It is believed by the writer that the paper is of immense practical importance and far-reaching strategic significance for promoting the building of undergraduate communists' vanguard nature to be in a positive, healthy and harmonious state.

**Key words:** Undergraduate communists; Building of vanguard nature; Capabilities of college counselors

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### INTRODUCTION

Undergraduate communists are the advanced members among the vast college students, and are the main forces and new forces in the socialist modernization. Enhancing the building of undergraduate communists' vanguard nature could contribute to raising their political consciousness, to enhance their theoretical knowledge, and to improve their moral quality. Besides, it could strengthen the charisma of the Communist Party of China and could consolidate the ruling foundation of the CPC. As the organizers, practitioners, directors of undergraduates' ideological and moral education, college counselors are the backbone of carrying out the task of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature. This paper makes an attempt to explore the capabilities that college counselors should improve on the basis of probing into the status quo of the building of undergraduate communists' vanguard nature.

### 1. THE STATUS QUO OF THE BUILDING OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' VANGUARD NATURE

Under the correct leadership of the Party Committees in the universities and colleges, the work of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature has been increasingly strengthened, which also successfully trained a team of undergraduate communists who have correct ideology, firm political stand, and higher morality. However, it is undeniable that some problems remain to be solved in the work of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature. They are as follows:

#### 1.1 The Ideological and Political Quality of Some Undergraduate Communists Needs to Be Improved

With the improvement of the building of undergraduate communists' vanguard nature, the ideological and political quality of undergraduate Party members continues

to grow, but there are still some communists whose ideological and political quality is relatively lower, which is reflected mainly as follows: First, the Party spirit of some undergraduate communists is not good enough. In modern society, with the establishment of the socialist market economy and the deepening of reform and opening up, economic sectors, interested parties, social lifestyles, forms of social organization, jobs and ways of employment tend to be diverse, volatile, and multi-layered, which brings about multiple effects to the ideology, political opinion, and morality of the undergraduate communists. In particular, the negative effects could result in student Party members' weak Party spirit, and could lead to their lack of good political theories, of ideological style training, and of organizational disciplines. Second, the awareness of being a communist is not strong enough for some undergraduate communists. To some degree, the awareness of being a communist is the prerequisite for the undergraduate communists to play an exemplary role. But in real life, some student Party members in universities and colleges are not equipped with a strong awareness of being a communist, which is mainly reflected in weak organizational concept, in passive participation in organizational life, in weak sense of mission, and in less knowledge of their social responsibility and historic mission as the builders and successors of socialist construction. In addition, their awareness of dedication is not strong enough. When dealing with the relationship between the individual and collective interests, some undergraduate communists put their personal interests as the first priority. What is more, their leading role is not fully played. Some of the college students are lazy in joining in the Communist Party of China for lack of good examples around them. (Wu, 2009)

### **1.2 The Development of New Undergraduate Party Members Is Not Standard Enough**

A standard development of new Party members will ensure the success of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature at the source. However, the development of new Party members in some colleges and universities is not standard enough. First, the standards of development are incorrect. When developing the undergraduate Party members, we should adhere to the principle of possessing both ability and integrity. We should not only take into account their ideological, political and moral qualities, but also should examine their academic performance. Nevertheless, some students Party branches put too much emphasis on the academic achievement of students when developing them into Party members, and ignore the examination of their ideology. For example, some student Party branches regard the standards of developing new Party members equivalent to the standards of assessing good students, put more emphasis on their academic performance and do not attach importance to their

ideological, political and moral qualities. Second, the development standards are tight before the final success of becoming a Party member, while the standards are rather relaxed afterwards. The development of new Party members is a very serious work, which deserves our good attention and conscientious implementation. However, in some universities and colleges, the work is strictly carried out in accordance with the development standards before the final success of admitting the students into the Communist Party of China, while it is carried out in a relaxed manner afterwards, which results in the fact that some Party members relax requirements on themselves after they become communists. What's worse, the performance of some student Party members is not as good as that of the ordinary students. This exerts negative influence to the guiding and educational role of the vanguard nature of the Communist Party of China. Third, the development of new Party members is less normative. In fact, strict requirements needed to be met in order to develop new Party members. In recent years, with the increase in the number of students, the number of people who want to join the Communist Party of China is growing, which has increased the workload of the Party building in colleges and universities to a certain extent. Since the number of students who are needed to be developed increases, some grassroots Party organizations relax their requirements in terms of the standards, materials, and procedures of joining the Party, thus the whole development procedures lack standardization.

### **1.3 The Educational Content Is Not Scientific Enough and the Way of Education Is Not Rich Enough**

The educational content and way of education are the means to achieve the building of undergraduate communists' vanguard nature. However, in the practical work, the educational content is not scientific enough, and the way of education is not rich enough. To be more specific, first, the content of education is not scientific enough. For instance, the educational content is piecemeal and unsystematic; besides, the educational content is monotonous and lacks pertinence; furthermore, the educational content is unvaried and less relevant. All these problems have led to unsystematic guide to the growth of undergraduate party members. They lack in-depth discussion and ideas collision. And some of them lack the interest and motivation in learning. Second, the way of education is not rich enough. The main ways are centralized and cramming education, while separate conversation and in-depth education are rare. The current way of education are divorced from the psychological characteristics, group features, and interest demands of the undergraduate communists, resulting in lack of relevance, effectiveness and innovation in education on the part of the undergraduate communists.

## 2. THE CAPABILITIES THAT COLLEGE COUNSELORS SHOULD ENHANCE WHEN BUILDING UNDERGRADUATE COMMUNISTS' VANGUARD NATURE

College counselors are the backbone of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature. Proceeding from the status quo of the building of undergraduate communists' vanguard nature, college counselors should enhance the following capabilities:

### 2.1 Capability of Giving Ideological and Theoretical Education

Ideological and theoretical foundation is the starting point for the building of undergraduate communists' vanguard nature. In order to enhance the undergraduate Party members' vanguard nature, we should first carry out ideological and theoretical education. In this sense, the capability of giving ideological and theoretical education is the primary capability that college counselors should have so as to build the vanguard nature of the undergraduate communists.

#### 2.1.1 Capability of Arming Minds With Scientific Theories

There is a brilliant sentence in Lenin's "What is to be Done" that "without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement." Hence college counselors should arm undergraduate communists' minds with scientific theories in order to cultivate them into qualified builders and reliable followers of socialist cause. To some degree, arming the student Party members' minds with scientific theories is aimed at giving them education in terms of the world outlook, viewpoint of life, and values. Nevertheless, the key to achieving this is to take advantage of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, and the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, thus improving their ability to understand and transform the world, and guiding them to consciously transform their subjective world in the process of transforming the objective world.

#### 2.1.2 Capability of Guiding Social Practice

As is indicated in Marx's "Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Law", "the weapon of criticism cannot replace the criticism of weapon, and the material forces can only be destroyed by using material forces".<sup>1</sup> Hence we can see that Marx stressed such a view that a theory can only play a role through being applied in practice. When consolidating the theoretical foundation of the work of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature, college counselors should not only arm the students with scientific theories and encourage them to internalize the ideological and political norms required for social development, but also should guide them to externalize the ideological and political ideas that have been

internalized, and to develop good habits through repeated practice. For this reason, college counselors should have the capability of guiding students' social practice, guide them to actively participate in social practice, to firm their faith in Marxism and communism faith, and to affirm their trust in the Chinese Communist Party and the socialist modernization in social practice, thus truly becoming exemplary practitioners of the socialist values, becoming the faithful implementers of the scientific concept of development, and becoming the active promoters of being innovative and excellent.

### 2.2 Capability of Choosing Educational Content

In the new historical period, college counselors should constantly study the new situations of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature, scientifically choose educational content, and enhance the appeal and attractiveness of education. The capability of choosing educational content mainly includes:

#### 2.2.1 Capability of Adhering to the Principles of Party Spirit

The principles of Party spirit are the important principles that college counselors should adhere to when choosing the educational content of building the vanguard nature of undergraduate Party members. The reason lies in the fact that the undergraduate communists are the builders and successors of the Party's cause. In order to become the vanguard of the Chinese working class, the vanguard of the Chinese people and the vanguard of the Chinese nation, they must have lofty political ideals, firm political beliefs, correct political stance, deep political feelings, and strong political sensitivity and identification ability. Therefore, when choosing the educational content of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature, college counselors should adhere to the principles of Party's spirit, attach importance to their education in the aspects of the basics of the Party and of the Party's basic theories, basic line, and basic program. Besides, college counselors should include the new ideas, new views, and new conclusions of the Party building into the educational content. At present, they should pay particular emphasis on publicizing and interpreting the core values of the Socialist, and should actively cultivate and implement the socialist core values among undergraduate Party members.

#### 2.2.2 Capability of Advancing With the Times

The progress of society and the development of times require that the educational content of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature should advance with the times. So college counselors should have the capability of advancing with the times, should be good at selecting the educational content of building the vanguard nature of undergraduate communists according to the development of the times and to the changes of the situation. First, college counselors should innovate the educational content. Mental health education, modern education in interpersonal communication, and career planning education is the new topics facing the work of building the vanguard nature of undergraduate Party

<sup>1</sup> *Selected works of Marx and Engels*. (1995, Vol 1). Beijing: People's Publishing House.

members in the new era. College counselors should keep pace with the times and select appropriate educational content when carrying out the work of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature. First, they should select the educational content about mental health. While improving students' subjectivity, the competition, complexity, diversity and variability of the modern society bring psychological contradiction, confusion, imbalance or even mental illness to the college students. Especially for the undergraduate communists, the stress on them in terms of study, work, interpersonal relationships and other aspects is rather more than that of the ordinary students. So it is a new topic facing the college counselors to attach more importance to humanistic care and to care about the "spiritual home" of the undergraduate communists. Accordingly, in the choice of educational content, college counselors should select the educational content about mental health, so as to be concerned about student Party members' mental health while caring about their ideological and moral health. Second, college counselors should select the educational content about interpersonal communication. In order to give full play to their exemplary role among the vast the student population, undergraduate communists should strengthen exchanges with the other students. With the development of the modern science and technology, especially of the information technology and communications tools, favorable conditions have been created for students to communicate with each other, and their interpersonal relationships have also become complicated. In this sense, it is another important issue facing college counselors to explore how to teach undergraduate Party members to establish a harmonious relationship with the ordinary students when they are improving the work of building undergraduate communist' vanguard nature. So college counselors should select the educational content about interpersonal communication, guiding undergraduate Party members to correctly understand communication, to reasonably choose the subjects of communication, and to actively avoid the risk of communication, thus being in common progress with other students, especially with the ordinary students, through harmonious communication. Third, college counselors should select the educational content about career planning. College students, especially the undergraduate Party members, are eager to be talents, and are expecting to achieve their career aspirations and career success. Compared to the ordinary students, undergraduate communists have better advantages in choosing the future careers. But in the highly competitive modern society, they still face severe employment situation. In order to be advantaged in the future job-seeking market, undergraduate communists should establish career aspirations as soon as possible. To this end, college counselors should guide them to plan their future careers in accordance with the needs of social development and with their actual situations so as to make their career aspirations reasonable and scientific. Last college counselors should refresh the traditional

educational content with the content of the new times. They should not only be good at developing and innovating the educational content based on the progress of the times, but also should be good at refreshing the traditional educational content with the content of the new times. For example, the contemporary interpretation of the "Lei Feng spirit" is that it refreshes the quality of "serving the people wholeheartedly" with the content of the new times.

## **2.3 Capability of Innovating the Way of Education**

Since the undergraduate communists have stronger sense of independent thinking, have broader access to information, and are more active in thinking, college counselors should have the capability of innovating the way of education, whose goal is to change the traditional way of education which is unvaried, unidirectional, and empirical, and thus form a way of education that is informationalized, three-dimensional, and two-way interactive. The details are as follows:

### **2.3.1 Capability of Teaching Through Learning**

Herber, a famous German educator, once pointed out, "If there is no moral education, teaching is only a means without a purpose; if there is no teaching, moral education is only a purpose without a means to arrive at." (Li, 1989, trans.). Hence we can see that teaching is an important means to achieve moral education. Nowadays, various courses in colleges and universities play an educational function, and all the teachers have the responsibility of educating students. If college counselors have good ideological, political and moral qualities, have high intellectual qualities and have sound physical and mental qualities, they will exert subtle influence to the development of undergraduate communists, thus achieving good educational results to students just like the rain moistening things silently. Therefore, the college counselors should have the capability to teach through learning. Through content-rich and diverse forms of teaching and learning activities, they can teach the students through students' learning process, and truly establishing a dialectical unity of teaching and the work of Party building.

### **2.3.2 Capability of Teaching Through Practice**

As the old saying goes, "no practice, no gain in the wit". Practice is the necessary way to strengthen the vanguard nature of undergraduate communists. For the undergraduate Party members, only by learning in social practices can they mate their words with their deeds and can they unite their knowledge with their behaviors. Therefore, college counselors should have the capability of teaching through practice, and should create the opportunities of establishing platforms for students to practice, so that the student Party members could improve their Party spirit in practice, could enhance the awareness of being a Party member, could establish a good image of being a Party member, and could continuously improve their vanguard nature. For example, college counselors could organize the undergraduate communists to go deep into the countryside, into companies, and into



communities, so that they could better experience the correctness of the Party's line, and thus establish and implement the core values of socialist in practice.

### **2.3.3 Capability of Teaching Through Entertainment**

Faced with the undergraduate communists who have broader vision, active thinking, and who are open-minded, college counselors should actively explore new ways to strengthen the building of their vanguard nature, teaching them through entertainment. Internet, youth volunteer activities, and bringing Party building into communities are the new ways for college counselors to teach the students through entertainment and to strengthen the work of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature. Internet is a new platform, which helps the undergraduate Party members improve their own political and theoretical level, and help them gain access to ideas and information. When it comes to take advantage of the Internet, on the one hand, college counselors should actively establish new platforms through which the work of Party building for college students could go into new social groups. On the other hand, college counselors should improve the development of the Internet, avoid Internet risks, and promote a good integration of the Internet and the new platforms. As for the youth volunteer activities, they are the activities used by the youth who applies knowledge, skills, and physical power to help others and solve others' difficulties. The process of the activities could deepen youths' understanding and experience of their social responsibility and historical mission. Besides, such activities could enrich young people's thoughts, feelings and deepen their sense of pleasure. In addition, the social recognition and praise gain from such activities can strengthen young people's awareness of collectivism and dedication spirit. Thus, college counselors should organize undergraduate communists to participate in youth volunteer activities in a planned and purposeful manner according to their strengths and advantages. With regard to let Party building work into communities, college counselors could enable undergraduate Party members to take up positions in communities, which could cultivate students' ability of social practice, dedication spirit, and sense of collaboration. college counselors should correctly guide them to go into communities, and encourage them to improve themselves in the process of serving the communities.

## **2.4 Capability of Improving Mechanisms in Colleges**

In order to take the building of undergraduate communists' vanguard nature on a scientific and standard road, college counselors must improve relevant mechanisms. The capability of improving mechanisms in colleges that college counselors should have included:

### **2.4.1 Capability of Improving the New Party-Member Developing Mechanism**

College counselors should actively develop new Party members, adding new blood and injecting vigor and

vitality to the Party organization. To this end, they should follow the principle of "adhering to standards, and devising strict procedures," to develop the college students, who have good ideological and political and moral qualities, who study hard, who have good academic performance, who are active in work, and who are outstanding in all aspects, into new Party members.

### **2.4.2 Capability of Improves Incentive Mechanism**

Incentive mechanism could stimulate the enthusiasm and initiative of undergraduate Party members to carry out the work of improving their vanguard nature. College counselors should strengthen their capability of improving incentive mechanism, inspire the advanced Party members and encourage those who are lagging behind through target incentives, environment incentives, and role models. In this way, college counselors could foster a favorable environment among undergraduate communists where everyone could come up with each other and strive to be advanced models.

### **2.4.3 Capability of Improving Evaluation Mechanism**

Evaluation mechanism could give scientific management and effective evaluation to the work of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature. College counselors should improve their capability of improving evaluation mechanism, give honors and publicity to the Party members who have outstanding performance, thus establishing models and promoting good working styles of the Communist Party of China. For those who have poor performance, and who violated disciplines, they should receive harsh criticism and serious treatment, thus we can ensure good results of the work of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature.

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## **CONCLUSION**

Strengthening the work of building undergraduate communist' vanguard nature is an important content of giving ideological and political education to college students. As the organizers, practitioners, directors of undergraduates' ideological and moral education, college counselors are the backbone of carrying out the task of building undergraduate communists' vanguard nature. College counselors should proceed from the circumstances facing the building of undergraduate communists' vanguard nature, and give full play to its backbone role.

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