

A New Exploration of Building a Modern University System: Optimization of the Path of Information Disclosure in Secondary Colleges

Huizhong Li, Qi Wang

School of Humanities, Jiangnan University, Jiangnan University City Research Center, China

Abstract

The Fourth Plenary Session of the Nineteenth Central Committee adopted the Decision of the CPC Central Committee on Several Major Issues Concerning Strengthening and Improving the Socialist System with Chinese Characteristics and Promoting the Modernization of the National Governance System and Governance Capacity. The key to promoting the modernization of the governance system and governance capacity of higher education lies in adhering to the socialist direction of running schools, building an education power, and running a satisfactory education for the people. At a time while pressing ahead with reforms to streamline the government, delegate power and improve regulation, and upgrade services in the field of higher education, the key to establishing and improving the modern university system lies in handling the relationship between expanding the autonomy of running schools and the participation of stakeholders in education co-governance, and its important link lies in the further improvement of the information disclosure system.

Keywords

Modern University System; Secondary Colleges; Information Disclosure.

1. Literature Review and Question Proposal

An important symbol of the establishment of the information disclosure system in colleges and universities is the implementation of the *Measures for Information Disclosure in Colleges and Universities*. In order to further implement the information disclosure system and promote the standardization and systematization of information disclosure, the Ministry of Education issued the *List of Information Disclosure Matters in Colleges and Universities* (hereinafter referred to as the *List*). From that on, the model of list management was implemented in information disclosure, and the *List* comprehensively discloses the school's scale, financial assets, education and teaching, scientific research and other information in and out of the school with detailed disclosure content of 50 articles in 10 categories. With the advancement of the comprehensive reform of colleges and universities, university governance has become a critical research topic that has drawn much attention, and the inherent key to university governance is to sort out and improve the modern university system. As an integral part of promoting and deepening the construction of the modern university system, the study on information disclosure policies and systems has gradually formed a research hotspot, thereby producing new achievements in theoretical research.

(1) The top-level design of information disclosure in universities

Ma He and Wang Ruan of Jilin University believed that "the main research hotspots in the field of information disclosure research in China are financial information disclosure, archival information disclosure and information disclosure system, while the secondary research hot spots in the field of information disclosure research in universities, the construction of information disclosure website platform and the information and university governance, which

are the frontier issues that are more concerned about the information disclosure of universities at present, have constituted the core content of information disclosure research in China's universities" [1]. Guo Jichao and Liu Jiang argued that "as an important content of the modern university system, the disclosure of university information is the basic embodiment of the internal governance ability of universities, and it is also the due meaning of colleges and universities to continuously improve the quality of education and promote connotative development" [2]. Professor Ma Haiqun believed that "public enterprises and institutions, including universities, have the responsibility and obligation to think about managing the public information of protesters within the necessary range; The concept of openness and transparency in modern university governance also requires universities to establish an information disclosure system and use it as a new performance indicator for the government and society to evaluate universities" [3]. Guo Zhaohong argued that "conducting research on the diversified demands of different stakeholders for information disclosure in universities is conducive to promoting the innovative development of university governance concepts, building a modern governance system of public accountability, democratic supervision, multi-subject participation, and consulting co-governance, and realizing the openness, fairness and transparency of university governance" [4]. The research of Huiqing Xu argued that "similar to enterprises, universities are also an organization of stakeholders, and the governance process of universities is a process in which their stakeholders are interdependent, share responsibilities, share resources and maximize the public interest" [5]. Ling Jing believed that "the governance of universities involves many stakeholders, and it is necessary to establish a mechanism for various stakeholders to participate in school governance, and the information disclosure system is an important way to ensure the right of university stakeholders to know, the right to supervise and promote the participation of all parties in school governance. Universities need to strengthen information disclosure to achieve the interests of these stakeholders" [6]. Wang Jingbo believed that "the basic characteristics of the modern university system are university autonomy, democratic management, and social participation. The disclosure of university information is the only way to clarify the relationship between the government and universities, realize the democratic autonomy of universities, and encourage society to participate in higher education, and is also one of the manifestations of the internationalization of modern universities" [7]. Zhang Dong and Su Bujie argued that "the administrative department of education is responsible for organizing experts or entrusting third-party professional institutions to evaluate the level, efficiency and quality of education of colleges and universities. The results of the assessment shall be disclosed to the public. This not only clarifies the authority of colleges and universities in the evaluation of school running level and teaching quality, but also stipulates that colleges and universities must disclose relevant information in a timely manner to accept social supervision, which has played a leading and promoting role in the rule of law for social participation in university governance" [8]. The view of Zha Zili, Xiong Qingnian and Li Wei is that "as an external supervision and evaluation mechanism for higher education governance, information disclosure is an important tool for modern social governance, which embodies the inherent prescriptiveness of the modern university system, is an effective way to achieve accountability in higher education, and is conducive to improving the transparency of higher education governance and expanding the participation of social forces in higher education" [9]. In his academic monograph *Research on The Policy of University Information Disclosure*, Ma Haiqun believed that "university governance has pushed the university information disclosure policy to an important position in social development, and in the process of university governance, the university information disclosure policy, as an important education policy of the university, must play a unique role and has an irreplaceable position" [10]. The research of Niu Junming and Zhang Dexiang has pointed out that "the establishment of a scientific and efficient information disclosure wage

mechanism and strict information disclosure system norms are the prerequisites for the promotion and orderly progress of the current work of colleges and universities in accordance with the law, as well as the development requirements for improving the modern university system and promoting the modernization of university governance capabilities and governance systems" [11].

The theoretical views of the scholars above have shown that the core of university governance lies in the top-level design and optimization of the modern university system. As an internal factor in university governance, the disclosure of university information has played a role that cannot be ignored. The study and practice of information disclosure is not only conducive to improving the efficiency level of internal governance of universities, but also conducive to improving and completing the modern university system, thus promoting the modernization of the education governance system and governance capabilities.

(2) Research related to information disclosure in secondary colleges

Xiao Guofang and Peng Shulian believed that "the openness and transparency of information is an effective supervision of the operation of its power in the governance of the college" [12]. The research of Li Di and Wang Hongxu believed that "the quality of information disclosure in secondary colleges will greatly affect the quality of information disclosure in colleges and universities as a whole, and is an important embodiment of whether the public power of colleges and universities is operated under the sun" [13]. While Xie Hao argued that "the further completion of the information disclosure system of secondary colleges of colleges and universities and the promotion of the standardization of information disclosure of secondary colleges of colleges and universities are not only the important means to innovate the management concept and management methods of colleges and universities, enhance efficient transparency, and promote the management of schools according to law, but also an inevitable requirement for the implementation of higher education reform" [14].

During the literature review, the authors have found that the study on the information disclosure mechanism of the secondary colleges is an important supplement to the overall information disclosure work of the universities. The in-depth study on the information disclosure mechanism of the secondary colleges is able to more effectively and directly affect the improvement of the internal governance level and capability of the universities, thereby ensuring the openness, transparency and efficiency of the various undertakings of the universities. However, the study on the information disclosure of secondary colleges is not in-depth enough at the moment, especially the study on the construction of the information disclosure index system of secondary colleges related to this topic, which is still blank.

2. Governance Logic of Information Disclosure Mechanism of Secondary Colleges

The research on the information disclosure mechanism of universities is an important part in the framework of university governance. In the stage of pressing ahead with reforms to streamline the government, delegate power and improve regulation, and upgrade services in the field of higher education. On the one hand, it is necessary to expand the universities' autonomy of running schools, stimulating the vitality of universities schooling through streamlining the governance. On the other hand, it needs to achieve the purpose of education co-governance in running schools with the participation of stakeholders, thus to promote the modernization of the university governance system and governance capabilities.

(1) Theoretical logic

a. The study on information disclosure research requires the expands in new research areas. With the sonstant enrichment and improvement of the field of information disclosure research in colleges and universities, the operation mechanism and policy research of information

disclosure based on the overall level of universities have become increasingly complete, and the main and secondary hot spots in the research field have been formed. However, the research on the information disclosure of secondary colleges which directly involves the cultivation of talents, education and teaching, and scientific research in colleges and universities is not in-depth, the relatively mature research field has not yet been formed, and theoretical research needs to be deepened.

b. Study on information disclosure mechanisms should become the new development point. Currently, the focus of the research on information disclosure of secondary colleges is mainly from the perspectives of basic concepts, basic connotations and basic principles, the research on the organizational structure, list setting, and dissemination carrier of the information disclosure of secondary colleges is still blank.

c. College governance extended from university governance, establishing the main body of college schooling. Studying and constructing the information disclosure system mechanism of secondary colleges are the important means to strengthen the effect of secondary colleges schooling, as well as the specific measure for university governance from schools to colleges, thereby establishing the status of colleges as the main body of schooling, and enriching the connotation of governance.

(2) Practical logic

a. Enrich the connotation of university governance, promoting the vertical extension of internal governance. University governance is not only the top-level design and optimization of the school, but also the comprehensive deepening of the governance system, governance measures and governance efficiency. Meanwhile, the in-depth advancement of university governance should be implemented to the secondary colleges, adhere to the problem-oriented and the extension of governance to the grass-roots level. Therefore, the establishment of the secondary college information disclosure mechanism is conducive to the construction of university governance connotation, improving the effectiveness of internal governance.

b. Establish an information disclosure operation mechanism for secondary colleges. Currently, the information disclosure mechanism of the secondary college can be divided into two types: On is to copy the school information disclosure work model. Disclosure of college information in accordance with the *List* of the Ministry of Education; The other is to disclose the situation of personnel training, education and teaching, and scientific research in colleges out of the *List* in accordance with the work mode of news and propaganda. The information disclosure of secondary colleges shall be combined with the actual situation of the college to establish an operating mechanism, so as to better supplement and improve the information disclosure of the school.

c. Establish an information disclosure system in secondary colleges. It is a blank in the current research field in the establishment of a secondary college information disclosure system that conforms to the conditions of the school and the college. The formulation of mechanisms such as the information disclosure index system, the content of the list, and the dissemination carrier of the secondary colleges will be better conducive to the improvement and implementation of the information disclosure system.

3. Analysis on the Problems of the Information Disclosure Mechanism of the Secondary Colleges

(1) Weak consciousness, active disclosure becomes a formality

The disclosure of information in colleges and universities is the bond that establishes the sense of trust between the public and universities, and the active disclosure of information is the obligation and responsibility of universities. With the emphasis attached by colleges and

universities to information disclosure work, the awareness of teachers and students participating in the management of schools according to law has been continuously enhanced, which has further promoted the improvement of the information disclosure system of colleges and universities and improved the scientific and reasonable working mechanism. However, the information disclosure of the secondary colleges of colleges and universities is still in a state of "laissez-faire", which is mainly manifested in the concerns and misunderstandings about the information disclosure of the secondary colleges, believing that information disclosure is the main responsibility of the school, and the college does not need to bear the responsibility and obligation of information disclosure.

The weak awareness of information disclosure in colleges and universities makes it impossible to carry out relevant publicity for teachers and students well, and many obstacles have been set up for the process and channels of information disclosure application, resulting in the development of the information disclosure system being difficult. The weak awareness of information disclosure in the secondary college restricts the process of teachers and students participating in the supervision of the management and operation of the college to a certain extent, which is not conducive to the college's own construction and standardized management. secondary colleges need to change their concepts, get out of the ideological misunderstanding that "information disclosure is the main responsibility of schools", and understand the importance and necessity of information disclosure work in secondary colleges from the perspective of the long-term development and stable operation of schools and colleges.

(2) Low work level, missing content and standards of disclosure

The promulgation and implementation of the *Measures for the Information Disclosure in Colleges and Universities* has promoted the improvement and perfection of the information disclosure work system for colleges and universities, while the *List of Information Disclosure Matters in Colleges and Universities* provides specific compliance with the content and work requirements for the disclosure of information in colleges and universities. Within the scope of the "List", colleges and universities may combine the actual work conditions and improve the content of relevant information disclosed. The degree of importance and implementation of information disclosure work by colleges and universities determines the standards and level of information disclosure work. The study shows that due to the lack of constraints on the information disclosure work of colleges and universities, the existence of low standards for information disclosure work, lax implementation, and poor implementation has also led to the imperfect information disclosure system of secondary colleges and become the form of workflow.

The "List" is a specific norm for the disclosure of information by universities, which is binding, normative and guiding. However, the information disclosure of secondary colleges should be different from the content of the school's "large and complete" information disclosure work, and explore the content and standards that are "small but fine" that conform to the characteristics of the college. Therefore, it is necessary to speed up the improvement and improvement of the information disclosure system of secondary colleges, and further standardize the specific content and standards of information disclosure.

(3) Single form, insufficient publicity

At present, there are problems such as passive positioning, lack of planning, and inefficient operation and maintenance in the information disclosure of colleges and universities in the mobile Internet environment. The application of information technology has promoted the development of information disclosure to informatization in colleges and universities. At the same time, research also shows that there are problems such as a single form of information technology in the use of information technology in colleges and universities, insufficient use of new media technology, and cumbersome processes for obtaining information. At present, most colleges and universities still use the form of embedding links on the main website of the school

to check relevant information by entering the college website or multi-level menus. To a certain extent, it affects the convenience, accuracy and user experience of teachers, students and the public to obtain information. Therefore, under the reminder before ensuring network security, the information disclosure of secondary colleges should make full use of new media technology, expand the communication channels of information disclosure, optimize the information management process, and build a fast, convenient and efficient information interaction network space.

4. Path Optimization of the Information Disclosure Mechanism of the Secondary College

The path optimization of the information disclosure mechanism of secondary colleges is an inherent requirement for colleges and universities to deepen educational reform and innovation, an objective requirement for building a modern university system, and an important means to improve the modernization of the governance system and governance capabilities of higher education. Colleges and universities should actively and steadily promote the information disclosure work of secondary colleges, further establish and improve the information disclosure system and mechanism of secondary colleges, continuously improve the awareness of information disclosure, and expand the content and access to information disclosure.

(1) Disclose in accordance with law, raising awareness of information disclosure

The *"Measures for the Information Disclosure in Colleges and Universities"* and the *"List of Information Disclosure Matters in Colleges and Universities"* clearly stipulate the content, authority, procedures, methods, and time limits for information disclosure in colleges and universities, and colleges and universities should strictly follow the relevant provisions and requirements of the *"Measures"* and *"List"*, continuously improve their ideological understanding of doing a good job in information disclosure work, deeply study and comprehend the spirit and requirements of the *"Measures"* and *"List"*, fully combine the actual work of schools and colleges, establish and improve the organizational structure of information disclosure of secondary colleges, and clarify the main responsibilities of the party and government of secondary colleges. Guarantee the right of teachers, students, and the public to participate in the development of schools and colleges, the right to know, the right to participate, the right to express, and the right to supervise, ensure the direction of socialist schooling, and strive to run a satisfactory education for the people.

(2) Benchmarking against tables, expanding the content of information disclosure

The information disclosure work of colleges and universities has the characteristics of political, policy and technical nature, and is a long-term and systematic project. To do a good job in the information disclosure work of secondary colleges, in accordance with the principle of "taking openness as the principle and non-disclosure as an exception", we should focus on further refining the information disclosure catalog and scope in light of the *"List"*, and pay close attention to compiling information disclosure guidelines and content lists that not only meet the provisions of the *"List"* and the requirements of the school, but also combine the actual work of the college to formulate information disclosure guidelines and content lists that reflect the core school-running indicators such as education and teaching, scientific research, talent training, and social services of the college. At the same time, on the basis of the *"List"*, it is necessary to expand the scope of disclosure in a timely manner, deepen and refine the content of disclosure, and promote the implementation of the information disclosure work of secondary colleges.

(3) Innovate carriers and broaden channels for information disclosure

The development of media integration is not only an innovation of information technology, but also a profound change in the way information is disseminated, and information is everywhere, omnipresent, and unused, which puts forward new challenges and new requirements for how to do a good job in the information disclosure of colleges and universities in the new era. Colleges and universities should profoundly grasp the trend of media integration and development, make the network platform bigger and stronger, and take the initiative to occupy a new position of information dissemination. It is necessary to give full play to the characteristics and advantages of new media, actively promote the use of technologies such as WeChat, public accounts, and mini programs for information disclosure in secondary colleges, open up information "islands" between schools, colleges, teachers and students, and the public, continuously improve the ability to prevent and resolve network information security and public opinion risks, establish a feedback mechanism for the public's needs and the supply of information to schools and colleges, and build a safe, convenient, and efficient information disclosure mechanism.

Acknowledgments

[Funded Project] Wuhan Research Institute of Jiangnan University 2021 Open Project Funding Project "Exploration of Information Disclosure and Improvement Path of Secondary Colleges from the Perspective of Modern University Governance" (IWHS20212059).

References

- [1] Ma He, Wang Ruan. Research Status and Hot Spots of Information Disclosure in Domestic Universities: An Analysis Based on CNKI Journal Literature (2000-2017). [J] Information Science, 2019, 37(10):170-176.
- [2] Guo Jichao, Liu Jiang. On the Construction of University Information Disclosure System under the Governance Structure of Modern Universities[J].Journal of Yancheng Normal University (Humanities and Social Sciences Edition), 2016,36(4):114-116.
- [3] Ma Haiqun. The Legitimacy of the Information Disclosure System of Colleges and Universities in Modern University Governance[J]. Library and Information Work,2012,56(6):5.
- [4] Guo Zhaohong. Blocking Factors and Cracking of University Information Disclosure in The Governance System: Based on Stakeholder Theory[J].Jiangsu Higher Education, 2017(9):45-49.
- [5] Xu Huiqing. Social Supervision from the Perspective of University External Governance[J].China Higher Education Research, 2013(1):82-85.
- [6] Ling Jing. Theoretical basis, characteristic analysis and value presentation of information disclosure system in vocational colleges and universities[J].Heilongjiang Higher Education Research, 2018 (10): 122-125.
- [7] Wang Jingbo. A Three-Dimensional Perspective on the Modern University System and Information Disclosure in Universities[J].China Higher Education, 2015(24):24-27.
- [8] Zhang Dong, Su Bujie. The Logical Transformation and Operation Mechanism of University External Governance [J]. Educational Research, 2017(7):101-107.
- [9] Zha Zili, Xiong Qingnian, Li Wei. Research on the Third-Party Evaluation Mechanism of Information Disclosure in Colleges and Universities in China[J].Modern University Education, 2016(2):99-105.
- [10] Ma Haiqun et al. Research on Information Disclosure Policy of Universities[M].Beijing: Intellectual Property Press, 2013:82.
- [11] Niu Junming, Zhang Dexiang. Research on the Reasons, Status Quo and Strategies of Information Disclosure in Colleges and Universities: Based on the Annual Report on Information Disclosure of 75 Universities Directly Affiliated to the Ministry of Education in 2016[J].China Higher Education Research, 2018(2):29-35.

- [12] Xiao Guofang, Peng Shulian. Research on decentralized governance of second-level colleges and universities under the threshold of governance[J].Jiangsu Higher Education, 2017(2):37-40.
- [13] Li Di, Wang Hongxu. Research on the Information Disclosure Mechanism of Secondary Colleges of Colleges and Universities: A Case Study of J University[J].Research on Contemporary Educational Practice and Teaching, 2019(10):103-104.
- [14] Xie Hao. Research on the Methods and Strategies of Information Disclosure in Secondary Colleges of Colleges and Universities[J].Contemporary Educational Practice and Teaching Research, 2018 (6): 72-73.