

Characteristics of Public Management Specialty in America Undergraduate Education and Its Revelations

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Abstract: The objective of the public management specialty in America is definite, the course resources is are plentiful and the training plan is well-laid. The content of the course related to the practice and the development of the period closely. Moreover it presents a tendency of an integration of multi-disciplinary. Several of advanced teaching methods are adopted and much importance is attached to the cultivation of students' ability to do practical work under the guideline. These entire superior depend on the contingent of highly qualified teachers, which insurance the implement of the object and teaching goals. The developing direction of the education for management was reflected by its undergraduate education. The experience of America should be drawn as a reference in China to built a scientific training objective, structure a rational teaching program, make up a perfect system of course, make use of advanced teaching methods, form a competent structure of teaching staff, in order to promote the development of public management instruction in China.

Keywords: public management specialty; undergraduate education ; the United States

1. Introduction

The education and research of our country's administrative management has deepened and formed our own theoretical system and educational system since China regained the major of administrative management in 1984. The academic disciplines of higher education had been adjusted in many ways by the state education authorities in 1996~1997. The kind of management and the mother discipline of public administration were new set. The major of public administration belonged to the class of law was fallen under to the science of public administration and was renamed as "administrative management" [1]. But the level of our country's public management's education should be raised and improved further compare to the externals. In China the education of public management is still in its infancy, so it is of great importance to merit the advanced experience of administration management of higher education. It is a problem that call for immediate solution that how to develop our public management of education of undergraduate course.

Currently the research for the education of public administration in our country mainly focuses on MPA (Master of Public Administration) that is master's level. We have done much study about the model of cultivation, teaching plans, curriculum provision and some related aspect of the MPA. But many scholars neglect the through studying of the undergraduate education of the administration management abroad. This thesis tries to promote some inspiration and reference for the education of administrative management of our country by analyzing the education of undergraduate course of this major of America.

2. The developing summary of American subject of administrative management

Administrative management (executive management) had quite a long history and had come into being as the producing of the country. In order to suit for the practice of the earlier executive management, the human beings made many deep research of the administrative management subject. Such as the "Politeia" of Plata ancient Greek philosopher, "Politics" of Aristotle, and "The Prince" of the politician Machiavelli in The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy. These works have rich theoretical connotation of the thought of administrative management. These thoughts didn't form an expert subject because of lacking of systematization and theoretical research. The administrative management became a special subject in America first at the end of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century and then expanded to other western nations speedily.

Before the late 1960's since the Public Administration (the science of administration, administrative management) born in America had experienced three strategies: origination, growth and scientific tendency gradually. We can call the Public Administration of this section "Administrative Management". After the 1960's the connotation of the Administrative management was quite different from the traditional meaning[2].

Recently there are there research fields in the subject frame for "public administration": firstly, "Public Administration", which is the core and the primary part of this subject; secondly, "Public Affairs"; thirdly, "Public Policy". So now the "Public Administration", "Public

Affairs”, “Public Policy” have become the three back bones or the subject of Administrative management [3].

Public administration in general means that the action of management that is done by the government, legislature, judicial organization of all classes in order to carry out their government affairs. In other words, it is the way to make and execute the public policy. Public affairs management is the management activity which is put into effect by the society intermediary, industry associations, civil society, especially some institutions that carry out some administrative function and so on. The public policy is the floorboard of a series of strategies, laws, measures, methods and regulations, which are try to achieve and service the goal of the politics, economic and culture in the certain society. In order to achieve these goals the government will adopt many political activities, rules and standards of behavior[4].

After making an on-the-spot investigation to the American subject of public administration recently, we know that the school of public administration can be divided into three types drawn on their undergraduate areas of study in more than two hundred universities in the whole America: firstly, the type of public administration, Maxwell college in Syracuse University and so on belongs to it; secondly, the kind of public affairs, the college of the public affairs and environment of Indiana University is the representative of this type; thirdly, the class of public policy, the University of California Berkeley, the college of Ford in the University of Michigan, the University of South California and so on all belong to this classification.

3. Characteristics of the undergraduate education of public administration in America

3.1. Goals of Cultivation

We can see clearly that there are still many common grounds among the undergraduate education of administrative management in different universities though their goals pay attention to different aspects (it is a more important characteristic) in their goals of cultivation. At first, all of them emphasize the significance of cultivating the students’ strong foundation of theories (including the major theoretical foundation and other aspects of theoretical foundation); Secondly, all of them pay more attention to the cultivation of the students’ ability of studying by themselves, analyzing the situation and solution of problems; thirdly, emphasizing the associating of the need of society and the cultivation for the undergraduate education. Many university propose directly that “what they have cultivated can suit for the need of different levels of the community organizations” or “the students may have sufficient competitive strength when they have to fight for the well-paying positions” as the cultivated goals; fourthly, all the universities pay more attention to

preparing for the students to attain higher level education in wider fields.

3.2. Setup of The Major

The scale of the education of the administrative management is grand in America; many high schools set the special college of Administrative Management, for example, the Maxwell College in Syracuse University. Many huge differences exit in the setup of the major of Administrative Management in America, and all kinds of universities try to presenting their own characteristics and advantages. Such as the undergraduate education major of the College of Policy Planning and development in University of South California plays extra emphasis on public policy, management and program, while the College of Public Affairs and environment in Indiana University pays more attention to do research of the policy of environment. The diversity of the major of administrative management in America mainly due to the major of the administrative management is pressure-pushing, and all the universities have to give prominence their own characteristics in order to be as strong competitors in struggling for more student nationalities[5].

3.3. The System of Course

Most foreign scholarship agrees with the point that the stage of the education of the undergraduate should be a kind of basic education and so their system of the course and teaching plan both pay more attention to the education of all kinds of abilities. The view is particularly noticeable in the universities of America. Most every student in the university must take language, literature, writing, humanism, mathematic, social science, and natural science, the major subjects as the elective course in the way of interdisciplinary in the first two years whatever the student will major in the last two years in the basic of the idée that cultivate the students with integrated development. In other words the students can choose the majored and minored subjects that fit for their own interests, that is to say they can enter the fields that they will be more professional in the last two years. Like the top universities in the world, such as Indian University, even the non-graduate major in Administrative Management must learn the core courses, like calculus, physics, chemistry and biology with the students major in science. At the same time many famous high schools that are ranked in the first position demand pretty in the basic courses of humanism, art and social science. Take the University of California Berkeley and University of Michigan for examples, their demanding of the HA&SS are separated 16% and 15% in the overall marks.

3.4. Course Content

The content of the courses integrated intimately to the practice and the need of the development of the area. It can be revealed from the content of the content of the course of the major of administrative management in

America that the kind of the administrative management follows the development trend closely, and cultivates the new generation of talent who has the ability to face the 21st century and combine theory and practice together. Moreover all these talent persons will become professional people in the field of administrative management. All of these can be reflected in their setup of the courses and the planning of the contents of the teaching activities. For example, the course of the natural resource and environment policy in the college of the environment management in Indiana University promotes many requests to the students. They demand that the research should relate the mineral exploitation, forest harvesting, over fishing, environmental degradation and so on in developing countries. In addition, the global problems such as the greenhouse effect, ozone destruction and the study of the protection and optimum utilization of the renewable resources and the non-renewable resources, the relationship of economic growth and net resource depletion, the policy of the development strategy and resources protection are all be requested. Beside these, the courses of the administrative management of many of the high schools are mostly new and unique, and in generally they may put out about 5% of the courses which was out of date, meanwhile adding about 9% of the courses that was fitting for the demand of the development of times. The teachers who have the responsibility to teach these courses will make suitable revision in bases of all kinds of the practical situation, even though the courses which were held back temporarily. We can see clearly from all the effective working motivation that the course contents of the administrative management in American high school hold the belief that they have to face the whole world, the requirement of the development of the sector which is constantly changing.

The content of the courses presents the tendency of the integration of multidisciplinary. We can conclude from the analysis former the administrative management has become a research field that characterized by rapid development of the interaction of multi-branches. Because of the problems that the government have to deal with refer to so much extensive territory such as politics, economy and society and so on, that the subject must be planed in the guidance of multi-interdisciplinary. All the tendency can be seen from the vividly from its setup of the courses. The courses of the kind of the administrative management have a lot to do with the subject of economics, public finance, or public economics. Take the University of Southern California for an example, the courses refer to the public administration of the undergraduate course including: public economic, public sector finance, public finance and budget, the theory and practice of the public budget. Generally the courses of the kind of the administrative management include many courses kinds of public policy, higher mathematics and quantitative analysis. The University of Southern Cali-

fornia is sometimes the typical example. The subject of public administration of the course of the undergraduate education consist of the formulation of the public policy, the implement of the public policy, the analytical method of the public policy, the relationship of the public policy and the Nonprofit Sector, the relationship of the organization and the public policy and so on.

3.5. Teaching Method

The teaching activities of the college of the administrative management in America not only carry out the lecture on the knowledge which is systematicness and theoretical property but also provide many preparations to the students' study in the stage of the graduate. These universities pay so more attention to the cultivation and the training of the ability of putting the theories into practice that they adopt many effective teaching methods to train the ability of the students' about how to do management and leading. Some of the typical teaching methods include: Case Method, Circumstance teaching method, Practical teaching method and Computer teaching (CAT).

The contents of the teaching and the lesson plans strictly obey the demand of the Course Outline so the effect of the teaching material can be brought into full play. The students must read many related stuff and prepare for the discussion in class in order to follow the teacher's step when they take the courses. Beside, the teaching of the classed attach importance to project the teaching atmosphere of relax, freedom and active. All the teachers pay more attention to motivate the students' personality and initiative, encourage them to put forward their own unusual opinions and views and advance challenging and argument.

3.6. Teacher Resource

It bring home to our hearts when inspect the subject of administrative management of the education of the undergraduate in America that the high-quality teaching resource must be the strong guarantee to achieve the higher level or position in the subject. Most of the backbone members of the teachers groups except the professors who were original from academic had taken the position in government or public field. It is reported by some related data that some teachers in the famous university of America were once the White House advisers, some once hold senior officers in the departments of government or states, to the surprise that many teachers are still the members of some reform commission of the federal government. All kinds of the aims of the cultivation and the plans for the teaching, which suit for the practice should be carried out. This action can be viewed as the guarantee of the high quality of the education of the administrative management to the undergraduate.

4. Reference and Revelation

We can put forward many revelations for the development of our graduate education of the administrative management by analyzing the undergraduate education of the administrative management in America.

4.1. Transforming The Notion and Model of Education

The education of the public management should make some differences in the meaning of teaching and attitude in our country. For details, it means that we should realization the necessity that transforms our ideas of education from mainly deliver knowledge to cultivation, from mainly holding the aim of cultivating the special talents to the goals that cultivating the overall qualities and the people who study the public management to meet all kinds of demands which was required by the modern society[6].

4.2. Establishing Scientific Aims of Cultivation

The stage of the undergraduate education should take the major basic education, emphasize the education of all kinds of abilities, strengthen the major theory basic and other knowledge of the all kinds of abilities and the more major of the contents of teaching should be taken into practice in the stage of graduate. The same as other majors, the stage of the undergraduate must take the responsibility to cultivate the sense of responsibility to society, the ability to analyze and resolve the problems the capable of creation, the capability of cooperation in the team of the socialization production and activity. All the conducts hold the aim that makes the students to suit the demand of society[7].

4.3. Forming The Scientific and Reasonable Teaching Plans and Course System

If we want to form the structuring course system, we should divide all the courses into three modules: education of all kinds of abilities, courses of major basis and the major courses and make the core courses that was designed by national education commitment as the required courses and put them come across the three models. Education of all kinds of abilities, basic courses and elective courses should be gave prominence to, and the major courses should be simplify.

4.4. Adopting Advanced Teaching Method

Referencing the teaching methods, we must say that classroom teaching is still the main instrumentation and the practice education is placed in the assisted position. Sometimes the reasonable lecture and scientific instruction has the same important function. In this way, the inter action between the teachers and students bidirectional can be put into practice. Many special teaching methods can be adopted, such as the teaching with discussion, case teaching methods and situation teaching method.

4.5. Training qualified teachers rationally

Training the qualified teachers has become the key point of the development of the education of the administrative management. The building of the major of the qualified teachers should hold the attitude of opening mind. One hand, the high school should utilize local resource efficiently. We can choose the excellent teachers who had done well in sociology, management and law to take the responsibility to teach the course of administrative management in our own schools. On the other hand, hiring the government officers and the persons in charge of the public department to become the part time professors can be a reasonable method in case of the practice.

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