

Establishing the "three pivot points" to build a solid foundation for fairness in graduate student enrolment in the new era

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Abstract: Postgraduate enrolment is an important way for the state to select high-level talents, which bears the initial mission of educating people for the Party and selecting talents for the country, and also shoulders the social responsibility of meeting the people's demand for higher-level and better education. In recent years, with the number of postgraduate students applying for the examination increasing year by year, the competition for the examination has become increasingly fierce, and the social attention of postgraduate admissions has been increasing. How to protect the fairness and impartiality of postgraduate enrollment, to achieve peace and standardization of postgraduate enrollment, is the core requirement of postgraduate enrollment work. This paper combines the actual work of postgraduate admissions, proposed from the standpoint of self-proposed, departmental review and the whole process of supervision of the three fulcrums, to build stable postgraduate admissions in universities and colleges central work, in order to achieve the fairness and justice of postgraduate admissions to build a solid line of defence.

Key words: university graduate admissions; fairness and justice; self-proposed questions; retesting; supervision

1 Introduction

Postgraduate enrollment is an important way for the state to select high-level research talents, which bears the initial mission of educating people for the Party and selecting talents for the country, and also shoulders the social responsibility of meeting the people's demand for higher-level and better education. In recent years, with the number of postgraduate students enrolled increasing year by year, the competition for the examination is becoming increasingly fierce, the social concern of postgraduate enrollment is increasing, involving the policy risk, management process risk, examination fraud risk, enrollment integrity risk and public opinion risk also occur frequently [1]. Therefore, the timely establishment of a set of rigorous and prudent postgraduate enrollment management mechanism is of great significance and safeguard for enhancing the quality of talent cultivation and highlighting the fairness of education. Among them, the three fulcrums of the preliminary examination self-proposed questions, retest standardized process and the whole enrolment supervision are not only the central work of building a stable postgraduate enrolment management mechanism, but also the basic guarantee for the fairness and safety of postgraduate enrolment.

2 Core value of graduate enrollment in the new era

In 2023, the State Council's *Report on the Reform of the Examination and Admission System* summarized and

reviewed the deepening of the reform of the examination and admission system in China since 2014. There are 10 references to fairness in the report, and it is clearly stated that this reform takes the promotion of students' healthy development, scientific selection of all kinds of talents, and the maintenance of fairness in education as the starting and ending point and one of the reform results is that "adhering to the fairness and justice, and the fairness of the examination and enrolment will better promote the fairness of education. It is also necessary to comprehensively strengthen the construction of the examination and enrolment system, improve the supervision and control mechanism, implement information disclosure, and continue to promote the examination and enrolment of fair opportunities, open procedures, and fair results. Therefore, adhering to fairness and justice is the core value of graduate student enrollment in the new era, allowing higher education to gradually serve as an important factor in determining social mobility, and showing its important role in regulating social fairness and impartiality [2].

To adhere to fairness and justice, first of all, a set of scientific and complete graduate enrollment policy system should be established. The national and local educational examination administrative departments and enrollment units should issue clear, reasonable, scientific and fair regulations for each link of enrollment, so as to have a basis to follow and rules to follow. This reflects the substantial justice of graduate enrollment work and is also the cornerstone of the realization of fairness and justice in graduate enrollment in the new era. At the same time, it is also necessary to rely on procedural justice to guarantee substantive justice, and without procedural justice, there is bound to be no substantive justice [3]. In order to maintain the inherent fairness of graduate enrollment policies, it is necessary to establish an effective procedure to ensure fairness and justice through the control, supervision, and constraints of the procedure [4]. Therefore, adherence to procedural norms is the guardrail for achieving fairness and justice in graduate student admissions in the new era.

3 Establishing a firm foundation for the self-proposed questions to ensure the safety and stability of the preliminary examinations for postgraduate students

3.1 Focusing on the details of the process to ensure that the self-proposed questions are rigorous and standardized

The first is to improve the construction of the system. Self-proposed questions are an important part of the entrance examination for postgraduate students, which is directly related to the security and stability of the entrance examination. Enrollment units should establish and improve a self-proposed question management mechanism, strictly follow the specific spirit and requirements of the Ministry of Education, the *National Master's Degree Enrollment Management Regulations*, and the local education examination institute's master's degree self-proposed questions, select teachers and test questions, organize exams and other key links, and formulate the "*Management Measures for Master's Degree Entrance Examination Self-examination Questions*", "*Master's Degree Entrance Examination Self-examination Authorization Letter*", etc., including a series of management documents, and clarify self-proposed questions. A series of management documents were formulated to clarify the requirements of each link of the self-proposed questions and to regulate and guide the work of self-proposed questions.

The second is to establish a sound work "ledger" system to ensure that each link is "traceable" and accountable. Admissions department should design "self-proposed subject proposition table", "self-proposed subject question paper handover sheet" and other accounts record form. In addition, a daily "counting" system should be established, and after the completion of all the subjects, the status of the subjects on that day should be timely counted, so that any subject can be matched, without errors or omissions.

3.2 Optimizing the setting of self-proposed subjects and highlighting the focus of talent selection

According to the goal of postgraduate talent selection, the preliminary examination stage should focus on the basic knowledge test, and the retest stage should focus on professional knowledge and ability examination. Admission units

should optimize the setting of self-proposed subjects and, in principle, streamline the self-proposed subjects according to the requirements of the first-level disciplines, reflecting the goal-oriented selection of postgraduate talents.

3.3 Exploring the new mode of electronic marking to improve the efficiency and quality of marking

Admission units should explore the use of modern technology to carry out electronic marking of postgraduate self-proposed examination subjects. Firstly, it can improve the quality and efficiency of marking, through real-time supervision of the marking process and timely correction of errors, and avoid omission, miscalculation, poor gate-keeping and other issues to ensure that the marking is objective and accurate. On the other hand, it can also facilitate the traceability and preservation of information, and the later checking points can be more convenient and quick to trace back to the original marking of the examination paper. Electronic marking meets the requirements of candidates for a fair and just examination environment, laying the foundation for researching the fairness and justice of admission work.

4 Establishing the core fulcrum of the second examination to ensure that the second examination of graduate students is standardized and orderly

4.1 To attach great importance to strict organization and management, and ensure the normative and orderly

Admission units should seriously develop master's degree retesting methods to ensure that the retesting work can be followed and based on evidence. Admission programme for re-examination should be examined and approved by the university admission leading group and reported to the Provincial Education and Examination Institute for examination and approval, and then announced to the society and organized for implementation. Through various forms and channels such as holding a university-wide retesting work arrangement meeting and email notification, the Graduate Admissions Management Department reminds each faculty and department that they must carefully design the retesting rules according to the characteristics of the disciplines and speciality, so as to ensure that the retesting assessment is scientific, effective, fair and impartial. The reexamination should adopt comprehensive and open ability-based test questions as far as possible, focusing on strengthening the comprehensive examination of candidates' past academic performance, consistent performance, scientific research ability, comprehensive quality and ideological integrity.

4.2 To highly strengthen supervision and inspection, and strive for fairness and impartiality

Postgraduate admissions management departments should establish and improve the supervision and inspection system of the reexamination work, and strengthen the supervision and inspection of the reexamination and admission work plan, organizational process, policy implementation, special recruitment, information disclosure and other important matters of the faculties and departments. Firstly, it is need to review the rules of each faculty and department's reexamination one by one to ensure the accuracy of the reexamination score line, enrollment, reexamination ratio and implementation rules of each major. Secondly, it is need to formulate emergency handling plans for the reference of the faculties and departments, so as to make sure that everything is safe and sound. The third is to repeatedly remind and emphasize some key policies of the teaching staff in the re-examination stage, such as interpretation is not allowed. They should ask for instructions in time, shall not interpret without authorization, and shall not act on their own.

5 Establishing the key fulcrum of whole-process supervision to ensure the fairness and justice of graduate enrollment

5.1 To construct a hierarchical, chain-type supervision system to ensure that the supervision is standardized and orderly

Postgraduate enrolment supervision, should construct a set of multi-level, and full chain type supervision system. On the one hand, the enrolment unit accepts the supervision of the higher authorities and the local enrolment management department, and strictly implements the norms and disciplinary requirements of the Ministry of Education and the local

examination institutes on enrolment; on the other hand, the university forms a hierarchical and chain-type supervisory system which is unitedly led by the leading group of enrolment work of the university, coordinated and managed by the management department of postgraduate enrolment, and implemented by the various faculties and departments.

5.2 To form a charter and normative basis of supervision to ensure that the supervision is in accordance with the rules

Regarding the important work of postgraduate admissions, normative documents should be formulated to form the basis for the implementation of the admissions work. For example, in the postgraduate re-examination work, the postgraduate admissions management department not only accurately publicizes and interprets the policy requirements of the Ministry of Education and the provincial education administrative departments, but also seriously formulates the school-level postgraduate re-examination work methods, which are examined and finalized by the university's admissions leading group and reported to the provincial education administrative departments for examination and approval, and then announced to the society and accepted by the society for supervision, so as to ensure that the re-examination work is rule-based and based on the evidence. The admission work of all faculties and departments shall be carried out in strict accordance with the announced rules of the reexamination to ensure that the reexamination assessment is scientific, effective, fair and just.

Conflicts of interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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