

ppi 201502ZU4645

Esta publicación científica en formato digital es continuidad de la revista impresa
ISSN-Versión Impresa 0798-1406 / ISSN-Versión on line 2542-3185 Depósito legal pp
197402ZU34

CUESTIONES POLÍTICAS

Instituto de Estudios Políticos y Derecho Público "Dr. Humberto J. La Roche"
de la Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas y Políticas de la Universidad del Zulia
Maracaibo, Venezuela



Vol.41

Nº 78

Julio

Septiembre

2023



Objective assessment in the quality assurance system of the academic virtue of the university in the context of legal security

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46398/cuestpol.4178.24>

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Abstract

The main objective of the article was to evaluate the quality assurance system of the university's academic virtue in the context of regulatory security. In order to achieve the stated objective, dialectics and the historical method were used. In addition, the following methods were also used in the research process: the structural-logical method, the method of scientific abstraction, analysis and synthesis, modeling and the method of abstract conclusion. According to the results of the study it is concluded that the approached system has a complex internal structure, with significant impact on the educational process. definitely, it is proved that an objective evaluation in the system of quality assurance of academic virtue of the university, in the general framework of legal certainty, plays an important role in the institution of higher education and cannot be ignored. After all, it is precisely such components of academic virtue as: justice, trust, respect, responsibility, honesty that are at the same time universal values, moral and ethical ideals of a highly developed society and, fundamentally, the key to the successful development of the state as a whole in the democratic system.

Keywords: legal aspects; axiological security; legal quality; academic virtue; university in the XXI century.

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Evaluación objetiva en el sistema de aseguramiento de la calidad de la virtud académica de la universidad en el contexto de la seguridad jurídica

Resumen

El objetivo principal del artículo fue evaluar el sistema de aseguramiento de la calidad de la virtud académica de la universidad, en el contexto de la seguridad normativa. Para lograr el objetivo planteado se hizo uso de la dialéctica y del método histórico. Además, en el proceso de investigación se utilizaron también los siguientes métodos: el método estructural-lógico, el método de abstracción científica, análisis y síntesis, modelización y el método de conclusión abstracta. De acuerdo a los resultados del estudio se concluye que el sistema abordado tiene una estructura interna compleja, con impacto significativo en el proceso educativo. Definitivamente, se comprueba que una evaluación objetiva en el sistema de aseguramiento de la calidad de la virtud académica de la universidad, en el marco general de la seguridad jurídica, juega un papel importante en la institución de educación superior y no puede ser ignorada. Después de todo, son precisamente tales componentes de la virtud académica como: la justicia, la confianza, el respeto, la responsabilidad, la honestidad que son al mismo tiempo valores universales, ideales morales y éticos de una sociedad altamente desarrollada y, fundamentalmente, la clave para el desarrollo exitoso del Estado en su conjunto en el sistema democrático.

Palabras clave: aspectos legales; seguridad axiológica; calidad jurídica; virtud académica; universidad en el siglo XXI.

Introduction

In the context of entering the European higher education area, an important problem is the approximation of educational paradigms, fundamental principles, methodological approaches in the design of content and the introduction of organizational forms, innovative technologies to ensure the quality of training of a future specialist in the system of legal security.

One of the components of ensuring the quality of higher education, effectively increasing the competitive ability of a specialist is the responsibility of the student for the results of his educational activities. In this context, academic virtue is a system-forming element that influences the formation of the ethical qualities of future professionals, in particular: responsibility, integrity, decency, trust, justice, respect, courage in the system of legal security. It should be noted that the spread of dishonest

behavior among students and an irresponsible attitude towards the results of their educational activities explain the decline in the quality of education and lead to the training of incompetent specialists.

Today, the problem of using dishonest methods by students in their educational activities is becoming relevant both for the higher education system of many European countries. Studies of dishonest behavior, which began in the 1940s, show that a significant proportion of students are involved in the practice of academic deception: in foreign universities at different times, estimates of their prevalence vary from more than 50% to 70% and more. Cheating students get better grades than they deserve, which spoils free competition, reduces students' desire to learn, and leads to misjudgment of students' academic achievement. In developed democracies, cheating is considered fraud and socially condemned in the legal security system (Popelo, 2017; Pushkina, 2007; Sylkin, 2021a).

So, we can state that the internal quality assurance system of any institution of higher education, both foreign and Ukrainian, must necessarily provide for the observance of the principles of academic virtue by all participants in the educational process in the system of legal security.

The structure of the article involves an analysis of the literature and a review of the methods used that form the main methodology of the study. The main results of the study, the part under discussion and the current conclusions are presented.

1. Materials and methods

The methodological basis of the article is the fundamental foundations of assessment in the quality assurance system of the academic virtue of the university in the context of legal security. To solve the tasks set, dialectical, systemic, logical and historical methods of scientific knowledge are used, which ensure the conceptual unity of the assessment work in the quality assurance system of the academic virtue of the university in the context of regulatory and legal security.

The following methods were used in the research process: the structural-logical method, the method of scientific abstraction, analysis and synthesis, modeling and the method of abstract conclusion, based on the results of the assessment in the quality assurance system of the academic virtue of the university in the context of legal security. The information base of the study is legal documents and publications devoted to the assessment in the quality assurance system of the academic virtue of the university in the context of regulatory security.

Thanks to the modern modeling method, an assessment model has been formed in the quality assurance system of the academic virtue of the university in the context of legal and regulatory security. This made it possible to achieve the goal.

2. Literature review

The transformation of higher education into the compulsory socialization of young people completely changes the main tasks of education. A number of scholars suggest that an increase in the number of young people with higher education and its transformation into a mandatory continuation of secondary education leads to a mechanical increase in the contingents of elite higher education.

Another equally important prerequisite for high-quality higher education is to provide young people with professional competence of a long-term plan, that is, with a focus on the future labor market, and not on the previous one. Under these conditions, the role of the country in educational affairs may change. The public sector of the economy will become only an integral part of the entire employment market, so higher education will be guided by the interests of the whole society, and not only by state institutions (Hesse, 2013; Osipyan, 2010).

Scientists believe that state bodies and structures are considered as the only ones responsible for all matters of assessing the quality of the higher education system. They note that it is most expedient to preserve everything that is available in management and control, improving it by expanding funding or using new instrumental or organizational means - computer testing, an external unified state exam, the introduction of student loans or educational vouchers (Cosmulese, 2019; Jones and Goodfellow, 2012; Kholiavko *et al.*, 2021).

An important tool for monitoring the quality of education at the university is a sociological survey of students, which allows you to quickly receive assessments and offers on educational services from their direct consumers. In Ukraine, there are no strong traditions of studying student opinions regarding the quality of teaching and the quality of higher education in general, although certain practices of this kind already exist. For example, students are surveyed in their opinion about the quality of teaching subjects for rating teachers (Habib *et al.*, 2021; Djakona *et al.*, 2021; Yukhachev, 2008; Kryshchanovych *et al.*, 2021).

In a market economy, the main criterion for assessing the quality of training a specialist in a higher educational institution is his professional competitiveness and competence. The issues of evaluating the quality of

education of a specialist, the choice of indicators, the construction of a system for evaluating higher educational institutions remain insufficiently studied. The considered aspects of quality assessment require the development of new promising directions for substantiating the criteria for assessing and monitoring the quality of education (Kryshtanovych *et al.*, 2022; Damm, 2016; Sylkin, 2021b).

3. Research Results and Discussions

In the context of the implementation of the international Academic IQ project “Academic Virtue and Education Quality Initiative”, launched by the American Councils for International Education in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and with the support of the US Embassy in Ukraine, a study was conducted to disseminate the principles academic virtue among applicants for higher education as a component of the internal quality assurance system of the Lviv Polytechnic National University in the system of regulatory and legal security.

As part of the study, a survey was conducted among full-time students at the first (bachelor’s) level of higher education. The timing of the survey: December 2020 - January 2021. The results of the study can be considered representative, since 2342 students took part in the survey, which is 14% of the total number of 16590 full-time bachelor’s degree applicants of the Lviv Polytechnic National University. The survey was conducted online. The results were processed using Excel, this exploration presents individual univariate distributions.

The survey involved applicants for full-time education of four courses, among which the largest number of respondents are students of the 1st year of study (34%). The least active were the 4th year students, whose answers amounted to only 15% of the total number of respondents in the system of legal security.

In the structure of the Lviv Polytechnic National University there are 15 educational and scientific institutes that train bachelor’s specialists in numerous specialties. Respondents from these institutions were involved in the study, among which students of specialties should be noted as the most active.

Achieving the effective formation of an internal system for ensuring the quality of higher education is impossible without the application of all its elements, in particular, the observance of the principles of academic virtue. Academic virtue is a relatively new concept for the legal framework, but not new in use and application by educational institutions and applicants

for higher education in Ukraine. We have made an attempt to highlight some of the parameters that characterize the spread of this approach in the educational environment of the Lviv Polytechnic National University in the system of legal security.

Today, in the system of regulatory and legal security, the main vectors for the development of academic virtue at the Lviv Polytechnic National University is the development and adoption of some regulatory documents, in particular: the Regulations «On Academic Virtue at the Lviv Polytechnic National University, the Regulations» On the Code of Corporate Culture of the Lviv Polytechnic National University, the standard for ensuring the quality of educational activities and higher education «Regulations for checking academic plagiarism of students' qualification papers, manuscripts of dissertations and monographs, manuscripts of articles submitted for publication in scientific periodicals», as well as the procedure for considering applications from students of the Lviv Polytechnic National University.

The Regulation «On Academic Virtue at the Lviv Polytechnic National University determines the moral principles, norms and rules of moral behavior, professional activities and professional communication of the academic community of the Lviv Polytechnic National University. This document is aimed at maintaining high professional standards in all areas of the university's activities (educational, scientific, educational, etc.), affirming academic virtues and preventing violations of academic virtue. The norms of this provision fix the rules of moral behavior directly in three main areas - educational, scientific and educational in the system of legal security.

The regulation sets out the basic concepts, principles and norms of academic virtue, and also establishes the norms for the observance of academic virtue by scientific and pedagogical workers and applicants for higher education, the norms and rules of academic virtue for scientific and pedagogical workers and applicants for higher education in the system of legal security.

In order to fulfill the norms of this provision, the University creates the Commission on Academic Virtue, among the main tasks of which are: to receive, consider, analyze applications for violation of the norms of this provision and prepare appropriate conclusions; involve experts in a particular industry in their work, as well as use technical and software tools to reliably establish the facts of violation of the norms of academic virtue on the submitted application.

Carry out information work to popularize the principles of academic virtue and professional ethics of scientific and pedagogical workers and applicants for higher education; initiate, conduct and support research on

academic virtue, the quality of education and scientific activity; prepare proposals to improve the effectiveness of the implementation of the principles of academic virtue in the educational and scientific activities of the university; provide recommendations and advice on ways and means of effective compliance with the norms of this provision in the system of regulatory and legal security.

Any employee of the university or applicant for higher education can apply to the Commission with a statement about the violation of the norms of this provision, making suggestions or additions. Also, the regulation provides for liability for violation of academic virtue and a set of preventive measures to prevent non-compliance with the norms and rules of academic virtue at the university.

The Code of Corporate Culture of the Lviv Polytechnic National University reflects the moral principles, rules and norms of communication and behavior, as well as the norms of professional ethics of the academic community of the Lviv Polytechnic National University. The Code proclaims and protects the value-oriented unity of the entire academic community, taking into account the feeling of solidarity, mutual respect, tolerance and patriotism, the readiness to preserve and develop the traditions of the university.

This Code presents the corporate values of the university, the principles of corporate interaction, professional ethics and culture in the academic community of the university. In particular, the norms and rules of academic virtue of scientific and pedagogical workers and applicants for higher education in the system of legal security are highlighted.

Thus, the norms and rules of academic virtue of applicants for higher education include: worthily carry the title of a university student, represent their educational institution, protect its honor and contribute to the creation of its positive image; profess the principles of academic freedom, intellectual independence and responsibility; initiate proposals aimed at improving teaching and educational work, humanizing the educational process and organizing the internal life of the academic community.

Confirm your level of conscientiousness in the entire educational process: follow the schedule of the educational process, pass tests and exams in a timely manner, and perform qualifying work; avoid manifestations of academic dishonesty, including: requests for assistance, rendering or receiving assistance from third parties in compiling any type of final control, slandering other students and teachers, using family or professional ties to get a positive or higher grade, cheating when performing written control measures.

Not to offer remuneration to teachers when evaluating the results of the implementation of educational, qualification, research tasks; not allow a

false interpretation of collectivism when performing tests, passing an exam or a test, not copying reports of laboratory work, computer programs, course projects; profess a culture of scientific integrity in the implementation of scientific activities, prevent plagiarism in scientific and qualifying works; not spontaneously audio or video recording of lectures; do not use a mobile phone during class.

Do not miss classes and do not be late for them without a good reason, do not leave the audience in the classroom without the permission of the teacher; respect the teacher as a person, personality, teacher and cooperate in the promotion of academic virtues, the development of scientific and educational innovations and the protection of public morality; develop leadership qualities, teamwork, professional mobility and spiritual integrity; to create and maintain a favorable moral and psychological climate in the student environment, to be tolerant in the system of regulatory and legal security.

Responsibility for violation of the norms of the Code lies with the academic community of the university. In case of violation of these norms, such measures may be applied to members of the academic community as: remarks; a written or oral warning in accordance with the established procedure; recommendations to make a public apology; consideration of issues at meetings of the student self-government body, meetings of the Academic Council, the College of Students, if necessary, petitioning the university administration for the use of disciplinary measures in accordance with the requirements of the Internal Regulations of the Lviv Polytechnic National University.

The procedure for considering applications from students of the Lviv Polytechnic National University provides for the use of the practice of obtaining feedback and complaints from students, in particular, when violations of academic integrity are detected both by students and university teachers in the system of regulatory and legal security.

One of the important indicators that indicates the possibility of popularizing the principles of academic virtue among students is the discussion of its components with teachers. To do this, the respondents were asked to note the frequency with which certain of the proposed questions were discussed with teachers during the semester in the system of legal security.

Thus, according to the results obtained, it can be argued that the discussion of the requirements for written work on the course (49.42%) and the issue of plagiarism, cheating and other violations (35.36%) are frequent. Unfortunately, topics about ethics and/or academic virtue (33.29%) are rare for teacher-student discussions; rules for citing borrowed texts and rules for referring to used literature (29.18%), as well as sanctions for plagiarism, cheating and other violations (29.89%).

The main assessment model in the quality assurance system of the academic virtue of the university in the context of regulatory security is shown in Fig.1.

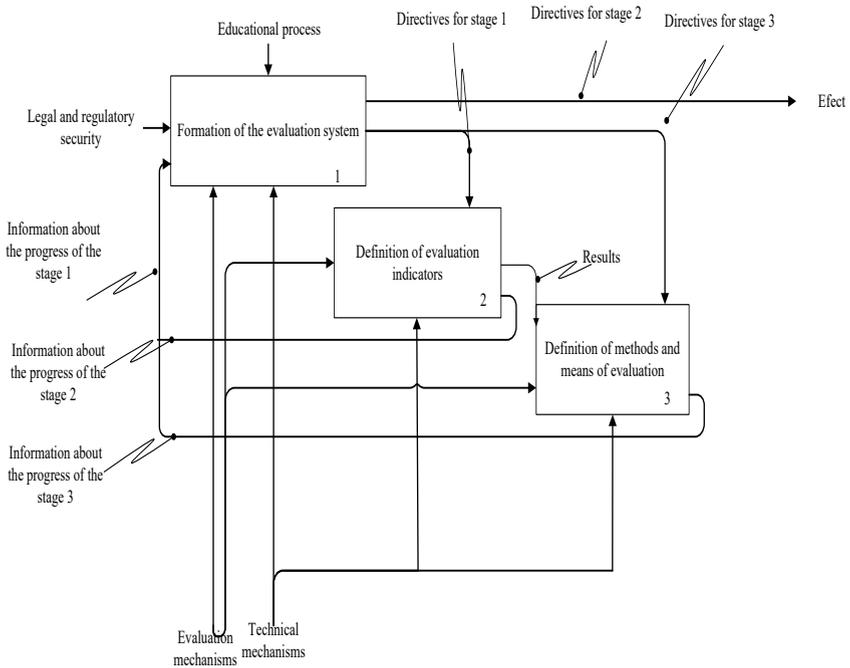


Figure 1. The main assessment model in the quality assurance system of the academic virtue of the university in the context of regulatory security. Formed by authors.

It should be noted that scientific and pedagogical workers should not only know, understand and observe the principles of academic virtue, but also strive to bring them to applicants, in particular, master the methods and techniques for introducing them into the educational process. So, for example, in the work program or syllabus of the academic discipline, the teacher can prescribe a policy on academic plagiarism, develop clear requirements for the implementation of various types of tasks, projects, reports, graphic, calculation, theses, and submit learning results with diagnostic, unambiguous, measuring criteria assessments that make it possible to clearly identify the content of the requirements for a higher education applicant in the system of legal and regulatory security.

Conclusions

Summing up the results of the survey, we can state that, despite the developed and adopted a number of documents regulating the policy of academic virtue at the Lviv Polytechnic National University, the educational environment of the university requires certain tools to improve the dissemination and observance of the principles of academic virtue among the participants in the educational process.

These tools include: voluntary signing by students, graduate students, teachers, representatives of the administration and other participants in the educational process of the Declaration on the observance of academic virtue; ensuring transparency and open access to relevant information as a key condition for the development of an institutional culture of academic virtue; the content of the policy and rules of academic virtue should be communicated to each participant in the educational process; there should be training activities for students (both as part of the components of the educational program, and in addition to it); students should have access to advice on academic writing, avoidance of violations of academic virtue, procedures for dealing with such violations, possible types of academic responsibility, organized separately from training sessions in the system of legal and regulatory security; issues of academic writing / academic virtue can be promoted both through the official website and at seminars, trainings, round tables, conferences, guest lectures for applicants; organizing and conducting anti-corruption activities; acquisition and updating of licensed software for checking works for plagiarism at the institutional level; students should have access to technical support and free access to software for checking papers for plagiarism; the policy on academic virtue should not only be embodied in the institutional culture of the educational institution, but also strengthened by appropriate procedures and institutional practices.

Also, an important element of the internal quality assurance system is the study and application of international practices to strengthen policies for the observance of the principles of academic virtue by applicants for higher education.

Thus, despite the fact that the effectiveness of these activities requires considerable time for their implementation, the main thing depends on the high level of motivation and internal culture and consciousness of the participants in the educational process. Compliance with the principles of academic virtue is not only an important factor in the internal system for ensuring the quality of higher education, but also an important criterion that determines the moral and moral principles that will be formed among applicants for higher education over the years of their study in the system of regulatory and legal security.

After all, it is precisely such components of academic virtue as justice, trust, respect, responsibility, honesty that are at the same time universal values, moral and ethical ideals of a highly developed society and the key to the successful development of the state as a whole in the system of legal security.

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DEL ZULIA

CUESTIONES POLÍTICAS

Vol.41 N° 78

*Esta revista fue editada en formato digital y publicada en julio de 2023, por el **Fondo Editorial Serbiluz**, Universidad del Zulia. Maracaibo-Venezuela*

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