

# Exploration of the Long term Mechanism for the Rule of Law Construction of Teacher Ethics in Higher Education Institutions in the New Era

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**Abstract:** Against the backdrop of the accelerating process of comprehensive rule of law in the country, branches such as rule of law in enterprises and education are also steadily advancing. The rule of law involves multiple fields, and as stated in the Book of Rites, “To build a country and govern the people, education is the top priority.” It can be seen that the most important issue in governing a country is to focus on the education sector. The construction of teacher ethics, professional conduct, and the rule of law is a concrete manifestation of the implementation of the rule of law strategy in the field of education, and can also comprehensively enhance and improve campus work in the new era. Rule of law in education is to promote the standardization and legalization of educational work through the law, regulate behaviors related to the field of education, such as resolving campus conflicts, regulating teaching activities, and handling teaching relationships, making the responsibility boundaries of school education clearer. While protecting the legitimate rights and interests of teachers and students, it also helps to promote the healthy development of the education industry. Virtue governance starts from the inside, using ritual and music education to improve the quality of people’s hearts and make them consciously abide by these norms; The rule of law is external and constrains people’s external behavior through specific rules. The two complement each other and are the dual hubs of the construction of teacher ethics in universities. The country attaches great importance to the role of the rule of law in the construction of teacher ethics in universities, which is not only an objective need to address the difficulties in the construction of teacher ethics in universities, but also an inevitable requirement for teaching and governing schools in accordance with the law.

**Keywords:** Teacher’s ethics; Legalization; Universities; mechanism

## 1. The Basic Situation of Teacher Ethics Construction in Universities in the New Era

The famous saying from “The Book of Rites - Prince Wen” succinctly expresses the responsibility of teachers and the requirements of teacher ethics. The connotation of teacher ethics includes self-discipline, benevolence, dedication, and integrity. Throughout history, anyone who is a teacher should pay attention to both morality and talent. It is not only necessary to teach students the ability to plan things, but also to teach them the virtue of standing in the world. Among them, spreading virtue is even more important. A good teacher should have both good political qualities, noble professional ethics, and standardized professional behavior. Since the reform and opening up, many fields in China have been developing rapidly, becoming the world’s second largest economy. Among them, education plays a significant role, and teacher ethics are the foundation of education work. Most of the time, we focus on the ethical behavior of teachers from the perspectives of ideology and morality. Most teachers also possess excellent professional ethics. However, with the popularization of self media and the rapid dissemination of information, the phenomenon of moral corruption among some university teachers has been more exposed, causing widespread social attention and discussion. In the new era, the country attaches great importance to the construction of teacher ethics, and the rule of law construction of teacher ethics can enable teachers to act in accordance with the law and have a legal basis. The construction of teacher ethics in universities also needs to strictly control education through the rule of law construction of teacher ethics behavior, in order to achieve the goal of improving the quality of talents.

The teaching profession is noble and beautiful, which requires both teaching and nurturing. Its essence is to forge the soul, shape life, and shape life. Some professional teachers in universities only consider teaching as a profession, lacking love and loyalty, lofty ideals, ignoring the personality and interests of students, and rarely communicating with students. They are indifferent to moral education and life guidance for students, and fail to deeply and comprehensively understand the functions of university teachers. University teachers not only need to have extensive academic experience and broad knowledge, but also need to grasp the political direction, firm political stance, and cultivate talents for the country. Establishing lofty life pursuits and ideal beliefs

Cultivate outstanding talents that meet the needs of the country, the people, and the times. In the context of the rule of law in education, teachers should understand and abide by higher education regulations. Only in this way can we better complete the work of teaching and educating people, better realize our own life value, and contribute more to social construction and national development.

From June to September 2021, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress established a law enforcement inspection team to carry out the first law enforcement inspection since the promulgation of the Higher Education Law of the People’s Republic of China. Aiming to comprehensively understand the implementation of laws, promote the reform and development of higher education in accordance with the law, ensure the implementation of major central decisions and deployments with the power of the rule of law, and provide a good legal environment for building a strong higher education country. Through the combination of legal supervision and legal improvement. During the review process of law enforcement inspections, in-depth discussions were held on the current implementation

status, difficulties in implementation, suggestions for legal improvement, and the rationality of legal clause revisions of the Higher Education Law. From the first law enforcement evaluation and summary, it can be seen that the legislative intention and purpose of the Higher Education Law have been basically achieved, and most of the legal provisions have been implemented.

It also revealed that some universities are eager for quick success and instant benefits in pursuing school rankings and the number of papers, the per capita funding does not meet national standards, teachers teach part-time as their main profession, there is a large gap between ideological and political teachers and psychological counselors, and there are deviations in political stance and ideological consciousness. It can be seen that the full implementation of the rule of law in schools still needs a long way to go, and there is still a certain gap between the results of law enforcement and the requirements proposed by the rule of law strategy.

## **2. The Main Problems Faced by the Rule of Law Construction of Teacher Ethics in Universities in the New Era**

2.1 The main target audience of universities lacks a deep understanding of laws and regulations and a conscious awareness of compliance.

The Ministry of Education released the revised draft of the Teacher Law of the People's Republic of China (draft for soliciting opinions) in 2021, which provides professional definitions for the definition, responsibilities and missions, basic principles, and legislative purposes of teachers. Implementing the rule of law in schools means providing legal basis for educational and teaching activities, while also safeguarding and safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of students, teachers, and schools. Standardize the handling methods and approaches for campus issues and conflicts, strengthen the legal awareness of school administration and teachers, and enhance their ability to handle various issues.

The main body of universities is students and teachers. A good teacher should have both good political qualities, noble professional ethics, and standardized professional behavior. The vast majority of teachers in our country still uphold noble professional ethics and are committed to cultivating outstanding talents. They adhere to the original intention of education, uphold correct beliefs and beliefs, and strive to spread mainstream ideology, providing solid support for the growth and development of students. But facing the challenges of the self media era, we also need to face and address the problems that arise. Some cases of corrupt professional ethics among university teachers have attracted public attention. At the same time, we have also noticed that some students may engage in behaviors that violate school rules and discipline in certain situations due to their lack of legal knowledge and weak legal awareness. These will seriously affect the healthy growth of students, as well as the reputation of school parents and students.

2.2 Inadequate implementation of laws and regulations in universities

Although China's universities have made significant progress in governing schools and teaching according to law, and new teachers have received training and assessment on higher education regulations, in the actual implementation process, some university teachers and students still have insufficient understanding and effective application of higher education regulations. Due to the long-term formed thinking habits, middle-aged and elderly teachers may need more time and effort to accept and integrate new regulations. Although new teachers have completed basic learning in pre job training, they often fail to fully understand the essence of higher education regulations, resulting in difficulties in flexibly using legal means to regulate teaching activities and protect the rights and interests of all parties in actual teaching.

## **3. Exploration of the Long term Mechanism for the Rule of Law Construction of Teacher Ethics in Universities in the New Era**

3.1 Regularly carry out diversified legal education classes

Combining the rule of law and the rule of virtue in school, based on "morality" to promote rule of law management, the report of the 19th National Congress pointed out that in order to build a socialist rule of law country, we must adhere to the combination of rule of law and rule of virtue, promote each other, and achieve mutually beneficial effects. Higher education institutions shoulder the important responsibility and mission of cultivating talents and revitalizing the country through science and education. They should also combine the rule of law and the rule of ethics in governing schools. The fundamental purpose of governing schools by law is to bring the development of universities into the track of the rule of law. In addition to students majoring in law, it is also necessary to establish long-term legal education classes for all teachers and students to familiarize teachers with relevant provisions such as the Teacher Law and the Higher Education Law, and to understand the rights and obligations of administrative legal relationships within them. At the same time, the official WeChat official account and Tiktok account are used to regularly release small videos of popularizing the law, and lectures on teacher morality and rule of law are also held to promote the popularization, improvement and management of the rule of law.

3.2 Improve the training and evaluation mechanism for teacher ethics and the rule of law

The administrative departments and teaching management departments of universities should improve the training mechanism for teacher ethics and higher education regulations, not only pre employment training, but also establish short, medium, and long-term training goals and plans. They should regularly take turns hosting teacher ethics report meetings and teacher ethics legal report meetings, and implement case sharing. Form a series of files for online and offline training on professional ethics and conduct, as well as higher education regulations, including the content, duration, records, and effectiveness assessment, to make it clear at a glance. Make deep use of the advantages of the Internet, establish electronic archives, and the training content and curriculum vitae can be queried online. Combine the

content of professional ethics and conduct with the content of regulations to create training materials. Set up legal knowledge competitions and other activities on campus.

### 3.3 Setting up law enforcement teams in universities to conduct law enforcement inspections

The Higher Education Law of the People's Republic of China has undergone two revisions since its first publication in 1998, namely in 2015 and 2018. Within three months starting from June 2021, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress formed a law enforcement inspection team to carry out the first law enforcement inspection of the Higher Education Law of the People's Republic of China since its promulgation. We should use this as a reference to establish an independent review system on campus, improve the construction of teacher ethics and rule of law, such as setting up law enforcement inspection teams in administrative organizations, synchronously conducting law enforcement inspections in the form of clubs, hiring professors from the law department as consultants, and law students as volunteers to assist in the implementation.

The supervision methods of teacher ethics and rule of law should be more diversified. To ensure the long-term effectiveness of teacher ethics and higher education regulatory training, in addition to regular spot checks on training records and implementation of training effectiveness, a system combining peer supervision and self supervision, supplemented by social public opinion supervision and administrative supervision, is implemented, and open mailboxes are also established simultaneously. Teachers in various professions have the responsibility of cultivating virtue and talent for the country. The boundaries of the rules and regulations on teacher ethics and conduct on campus should be clear, and the enforcement situation should be fair, just, and open.

### 3.4 Pay attention to typical publicity and create a good legal atmosphere

Make full use of the advantages of the Internet, with the help of multimedia technology, and create a good atmosphere of teacher morality and rule of law in an all-round way. A good school atmosphere, teaching style, and awareness of the rule of law can form an intangible force that subtly influences the words, actions, and ideological concepts of teachers and students, and more effectively strengthens the construction of teacher ethics and conduct. Regularly plan and carry out promotional and educational activities on themes such as the Chinese Dream, as well as legal education activities in legal education classrooms such as online legal education on campus, to spread positive energy and guide teachers and students to establish lofty ideals and beliefs. Universities should take correct theories as the cornerstone of school culture construction, with patriotism and moral education as the core, promote the excellent school culture of patriotism, revolution, self-improvement, and science, and achieve effective management, governance, and positive guidance. To provide a good atmosphere for the growth of university teachers, cultivate a group of teachers with both moral integrity and talent, and cultivate generations of new generation with ideals, abilities, and responsibilities.

In the first section of Mencius' Li Lou Zhang Ju, it is said that "a good person is not enough to govern, and a good person cannot govern on their own." It can be seen that from ancient times, from the perspective of national politics, rulers must have both moral and legal constraints on every citizen. The construction of talent teams, scientific research and innovation achievements, international cooperation and exchange, and the inheritance of excellent culture are all important missions of Chinese universities. The construction of professional ethics and conduct among university teachers is related to the honor of a university and the type of talents it cultivates. The rigor, fairness, transparency and other functional factors of the law can effectively assist in the construction of professional ethics and conduct, accelerate the process of professional ethics and conduct construction and the process of governing the school according to law, and promote the cultivation of good moral character among university teachers and students.

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