

# Research on the Dilemmas and Countermeasures of Discipline Enforcement Education by University Counselors Who Are Also League Cadres from the Perspective of Comprehensive and Strict Governance of the Communist Youth League

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**Abstract:** Comprehensive and strict governance of the Communist Youth League (CYL) is an important measure for the CYL in the new era to follow the Party's pace in advancing self-reform. As key subjects with dual identities of CYL cadres and ideological and political educators, university counselors who are also league cadres play a critical role in discipline enforcement of the CYL at universities. Against the background of the requirements of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL, this paper objectively defines the core role connotation of these counselors in discipline enforcement education, deeply analyzes the practical dilemmas they face in carrying out discipline enforcement education, and puts forward targeted countermeasures. This is conducive to promoting the in-depth integration of discipline enforcement education and ideological and political education of the university CYL, effectively improving the effectiveness of discipline enforcement education, and providing practical references for the implementation of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL at the grassroots level in universities.

**Keywords:** Comprehensive and strict governance of the Communist Youth League; Universities; Counselors who are also league cadres; Discipline enforcement education; Ideological and political education

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## 1. Introduction

Comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL arises from the new requirements of improving the institutional system of CYL work under the background of comprehensive and strict governance of the Party. It is not only the essential requirement for fulfilling the fundamental duty of being "the Party's assistant

and reserve force” and advancing self-reform synchronously with the Party, but also an important measure to deepen the reform of mass organizations and promote the CYL to strengthen political forging in the new situation <sup>[1]</sup>. League cadres are the “key few” in the comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL. As frontline forces directly connecting young league members, university counselors play a key role in guiding grassroots CYL organizations. Especially in universities, persons in charge of grassroots league committees and general league branches often hold dual identities as league cadres and counselors. Carrying out discipline enforcement work of the CYL is itself an ideological and political education work. How to realize the “educational attribute” of “CYL discipline education” is a practical problem that urgently needs to be clarified for comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL in the new era.

## **2. Role orientation of university counselors who are also league cadres from the perspective of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL**

### **2.1. Grassroots implementer of strict governance policies**

Counselors who are also league cadres are direct organizers and implementers of grassroots CYL work in universities, serving as key transmitters from top-level design to grassroots practice and ultimately responsible subjects for policy implementation of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL. Their work represents the “last mile” of discipline enforcement of the university CYL. As the responsible subject for the effective implementation of strict governance, their core duty is to translate abstract league governance systems into specific work requirements for grassroots CYL organizations. Meanwhile, as direct recipients of policy implementation feedback, their timely insight and intervention in basic problems can provide frontline practical evidence for higher-level CYL organizations to improve discipline systems and optimize discipline enforcement requirements, forming an important link in the closed-loop policy system of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL.

### **2.2. Frontline communicator of league policies and theories**

The core of discipline enforcement education is to realize the ideological transformation of league members from “knowing discipline” to “understanding discipline” and then to “abiding by discipline” <sup>[2]</sup>. The key to ideological guidance lies in the effective communication of policies and theories, and counselors who are also league cadres are frontline communicators of league policies and theories among college student league members <sup>[3]</sup>. This role connotation comes from the clear requirements of university CYL work and the direct advantages of counselors in ideological connection, behavioral discipline and educational guidance with young league members. As frontline communicators, their communication directly determines the degree of understanding and recognition of league discipline policies by league members, which is the key to consolidating the ideological foundation of league members’ discipline awareness and an important bridge to deepen the concept of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL in the minds of league members <sup>[4]</sup>.

### **2.3. Core cultivator of grassroots CYL organization vitality**

Improving the organizational, guiding and service capabilities of the CYL is one of the goals of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL. As direct guides of grassroots CYL organization construction, counselors who are also league cadres are core cultivators of grassroots CYL organization vitality. They are directly responsible for the construction and management of grassroots league branches, leading the development

of “Three Meetings, Two Systems and One Class”, the cultivation of league member teams, the planning of intra-league activities and other grassroots league affairs, which directly affect the cohesion and combat effectiveness of grassroots CYL organizations<sup>[5]</sup>. Meanwhile, they undertake the duty of solving problems such as “hollowing out” of grassroots CYL organizations and low participation of league members, serving as a key force to promote the standardized construction of grassroots CYL organizations and provide a solid organizational carrier for league discipline enforcement education<sup>[6]</sup>.

#### **2.4. Educator and server for the growth of college student league members**

The core identity of counselors who are also league cadres is ideological and political educators, and education is their fundamental duty, which determines their dual identities of discipline enforcement, education and education service. This role breaks the single cognition that “discipline enforcement is management and punishment”, requiring the integration of discipline enforcement education with the growth of league members, carrying out discipline enforcement around educational goals, and transforming league discipline constraints into an effective path to guide the healthy growth of league members. They should not only maintain the seriousness of league discipline, but also pay attention to the growth characteristics of league members, balance discipline requirements and youth development laws, serving as the core subject to realize the educational goal of “curing the sickness to save the patient” in league discipline education.

### **3. Practical dilemmas of discipline enforcement education by university counselors who are also league cadres from the perspective of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL**

#### **3.1. Insufficient ability to translate theory into educational practice**

Discipline enforcement education is both theoretical and practical, requiring counselors who are also league cadres to have solid policy and theoretical knowledge and strong theoretical transformation ability. However, some counselors have obvious shortcomings in this regard. On the one hand, theoretical learning is superficial. Facing new policies and documents of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL, most counselors lack in-depth thinking and grasp, and only superficially understand the connotation requirements, league discipline sanction standards and procedures, leading to problems such as policy understanding deviation and inconsistent implementation standards in discipline enforcement education practice. On the other hand, the disconnection between theory and practice is prominent. Various league policy and theoretical training mostly focuses on theoretical explanation, lacking practical guidance combined with the actual discipline enforcement education in universities, resulting in the disconnection between discipline enforcement education and the actual life of league members, low participation and poor effect.

#### **3.2. Existence of “Lax and Soft” phenomenon in grassroots discipline enforcement education**

“Strictness” is the core requirement of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL, but the phenomenon of “lax and soft” is common in grassroots discipline enforcement education, seriously weakening the authority of league discipline and the effectiveness of discipline enforcement education. This phenomenon is related to imperfect grassroots implementation mechanisms, counselors’ discipline enforcement concepts and assessment orientation. First, discipline enforcement standards are not strictly implemented. Some

counselors have a “good guy” mentality, only criticizing and educating league members for minor disciplinary violations and turning a blind eye to obvious violations; some counselors are inaccurate in grasping league discipline sanction procedures and standards, worrying about causing resistance from league members and thus lowering discipline enforcement standards, leading to “laxity and softness”. Second, the assessment mechanism for discipline enforcement education is imperfect. The assessment of CYL work in universities mostly focuses on explicit indicators, such as the development of intra-league activities and the number of league members developed, lacking specific evaluation and quantitative standards for implicit indicators, such as the development and implementation effect of discipline enforcement education, leading to insufficient attention and investment of league cadres in discipline enforcement education <sup>[7]</sup>. Third, the grassroots discipline enforcement supervision system is not sound. University grassroots CYL organizations lack a special discipline enforcement supervision team, and league discipline supervision is mostly undertaken by one or a few people, lacking an effective supervision and restriction mechanism, making it difficult to form a normalized and standardized discipline enforcement supervision pattern.

### **3.3. Tendency of “Dualistic Opposition” between league cadres and league members in discipline enforcement**

The subject and object of discipline enforcement education should have a benign interactive relationship of education and educated and guidance. However, inappropriate discipline enforcement methods in practice lead to a tense “dualistic opposition” relationship, affecting educational effect and damaging the connection between CYL organizations and league members. On the one hand, discipline enforcement methods are simple and rough, lacking communication. Some counselors uphold a “condescending” management concept, adopting a simplified treatment of “criticism + sanction” for league members who violate discipline, without an in-depth understanding of the causes of violations or equal communication with league members, leading to resistance of league members to the treatment results and rejection of CYL organizations and discipline enforcement education. On the other hand, discipline enforcement education fails to exert the subjective role of league members. In the formulation of league discipline, handling of violations, educational rectification and other links, the opinions and suggestions of league members are hardly heard and adopted, leading to low recognition of league members and forming a bad situation of “management and avoidance”.

### **3.4. Serious neglect of league members’ psychological concerns in discipline enforcement**

Combining strict management with sincere care is an important principle of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL, and education is the fundamental purpose of discipline enforcement education. However, in practice, it is easy to fall into the educational misunderstanding of “emphasizing punishment over counseling”, seriously neglecting the psychological concerns of league members and violating the educational original intention of discipline enforcement education <sup>[8]</sup>. First, there is a lack of psychological research before discipline enforcement. Counselors do not deeply understand the ideological dynamics, psychological characteristics, and deep psychological causes of violations of league members, only handling and educating according to violations, leading to the disconnection between educational content and the psychological needs of league members, making it difficult to fundamentally solve problems. Second, there is a lack of psychological counseling during discipline enforcement. League members are prone to negative emotions such as self-blame and anxiety after being punished, affecting their study, life and interpersonal communication, and may even cause extreme behaviors. Third, there is a lack of continuous tracking after discipline enforcement.

Without understanding the changes in their psychological state and rectification situation, some league members admit their mistakes on the surface but resist in their hearts, greatly reducing the rectification effect.

## **4. Countermeasures and suggestions for discipline enforcement education by university counselors who are also league cadres from the perspective of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL**

### **4.1. Strengthen systematic training to improve the ability to translate theory into educational practice**

The key to solving the dilemma of weak theoretical transformation ability is to build a systematic training system and improve the core competence of counselors who are also league cadres. First, build a hierarchical and classified theoretical learning system. Universities should formulate a systematic learning plan for counselors according to the policy requirements of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL, translate the Party's theories and CYL's requirements into timely and comprehensive educational concepts, and guide counselors to understand the theory. Second, build an exchange platform for the integration of theory and practice. Organize multi-channel exchange and learning to draw on advanced practical experience, establish an on-campus practical case library of discipline enforcement education, encourage counselors to summarize and share practical experience and typical cases, and explore effective methods to translate theory into practice. Third, promote the professional and specialized development of counselors. Include discipline enforcement education ability in the work requirements of league cadres and an important part of the professional development of counselors, encourage counselors to innovate educational methods and improve teaching level.

### **4.2. Improve the institutional implementation system to eliminate the “lax and soft” problem in grassroots discipline enforcement education**

The key to eliminating the “lax and soft” phenomenon is to build an institutional implementation system with clear powers and responsibilities, explicit standards, adequate supervision and strong assessment, making discipline enforcement education rule-based and strictly implemented. First, clarify discipline enforcement standards and standardize discipline enforcement procedures. Specify the identification standards, sanction procedures and handling methods for league members' disciplinary violations to eliminate subjectivity and arbitrariness in discipline enforcement; meanwhile, standardize the approval, publicity, appeal and other procedures of league discipline sanctions to protect the legitimate rights and interests of league members and make discipline enforcement work transparent. Second, improve the assessment and evaluation mechanism and strengthen the guiding role of discipline enforcement education. Include the development and implementation effect of discipline enforcement education as core indicators in evaluation and assessment, interview and hold accountable counselors who pay insufficient attention and implement poorly, and guide them to shift their work focus to the educational attribute of discipline enforcement. Third, build a multi-dimensional collaborative discipline enforcement supervision system. Establish a vertical supervision system covering the university league committee, school/department league committee and the grassroots league branch, smooth supervision channels, enhance the voice of democratic supervision, and ensure the strict implementation of discipline enforcement education.

### **4.3. Innovate discipline enforcement education methods to resolve the “dualistic opposition” between league cadres and league members**

The key to resolving the contradiction of “dualistic opposition” is to change discipline enforcement concepts, innovate educational methods, exert the subjective role of league members, and build a new pattern of equal interaction and collaborative participation in discipline enforcement education. First, establish the concept of “equal communication and democratic discipline enforcement”. Abandon the traditional “management-oriented” concept and establish “service-oriented” and “education-oriented” concepts. Adhere to equal communication in discipline enforcement, deeply understand the causes of violations, patiently listen to the thoughts and demands of league members, adopt reasonable opinions and suggestions, make league members feel respected and understood, and eliminate resistance. Second, promote the democratization of discipline enforcement education. In the handling of violations, democratic evaluation, educational rectification and other links, make league members witnesses and defenders of CYL discipline enforcement work; in the educational rectification link, encourage league members to formulate self-rectification plans, supervise each other and make progress together, forming an atmosphere of “full participation and joint discipline enforcement”. Third, innovate the methods of discipline enforcement and education. Abandon the single model of “criticism + sanction”, integrate discipline enforcement education with the daily study and life of league members to enhance fun and attractiveness; make full use of new media platforms to build online discipline enforcement education positions, spread league discipline knowledge through short videos, cartoons, mini programs and other forms, carry out online league discipline knowledge competitions, and expand the coverage and influence of discipline enforcement education.

### **4.4. Integrate psychological counseling elements to make up for the shortage of psychological concern in discipline enforcement**

The key to making up for the shortage of psychological concern is to adhere to the principle of “combining strict management with sincere care, integrating punishment and counseling”, integrating mental health education into the whole process of discipline enforcement education, making discipline enforcement education both rigorous and warm <sup>[9]</sup>. First, build an integrated education system of “league discipline education + mental health education”. Universities include mental health education in compulsory courses for counselors’ ability improvement, carry out regular special training to improve their psychological education knowledge and skills, enabling them to accurately identify and relieve psychological problems of league members; meanwhile, integrate mental health education into league courses and organizational life to guide league members to correctly understand the restrictive and protective role of league discipline and enhance psychological adjustment ability. Second, realize full-process psychological concern in discipline enforcement education. Conduct research on the ideological and psychological state of league members before discipline enforcement to provide a basis for targeted education; adopt the method of “sanction + counseling” for league members who violate discipline during discipline enforcement, carry out personalized psychological counseling while enforcing discipline in accordance with regulations, help them relieve negative emotions and build confidence in correction; establish psychological tracking files for league members who violate discipline after discipline enforcement, conduct regular psychological return visits and ideological guidance, timely solve psychological problems and help them return to normal organizational life. Third, build a professional psychological support platform. Universities give play to the professional role of mental health education centers, establish a collaborative working mechanism between counselors and psychological

teachers, and arrange professional teachers to provide counseling and intervention for league members who violate discipline with serious psychological problems; cultivate student psychological backbones in grassroots CYL organizations, exert the role of peer counseling, timely detect and relieve psychological problems of league members, forming a psychological support system of “counselor guidance, professional teacher support and student backbone participation”<sup>[10]</sup>.

## 5. Conclusion

Comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL is an important part of the construction of the CYL in the new era. As core implementers of discipline enforcement education of the university CYL, counselors who are also league cadres directly determine the implementation of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL at the grassroots level in universities, and also affect the growth of college student league members and the overall quality of ideological and political education in universities. Discipline enforcement education of the university CYL is a systematic project requiring the joint efforts of universities, university league committees, school/department CYL organizations, counselors who are also league cadres and other subjects. Under the new era background of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL, counselors who are also league cadres should adhere to the original aspiration of education, closely follow the core requirements of comprehensive and strict governance of the CYL, continuously improve discipline enforcement education ability, innovate educational methods, combine strict management with sincere care, integrate punishment and counseling, effectively improve the effectiveness of discipline enforcement education, integrate league discipline education into the growth process of college student league members, and guide them to firm ideals and beliefs, strictly abide by organizational discipline and consolidate political character.

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