

# Think-tank achievement evaluation index system of research universities

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## Abstract

**Think-tank results including academic output of scientific research in colleges and universities, for instructions on the leadership of the policy recommendations, the academic public opinion leading results. Sound, a think-tank, achievement evaluation index system of colleges and universities, is to build the key to efficient new think-tank evaluation system with Chinese characteristics. From the reality of the think-tank, function orientation, attaches great importance to its prospective, academic leading public opinion. The fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method. Comprehensive assess the results output contribution to social development, public opinion guide as well as the degree of participation in decision-making. To break the "instructions", adhere to the combination of subjective and objective evaluation, covers the results of different types. Will be combined with an efficient work performance appraisal and title assess instead.**

## Keywords

**The think-tank; A think-tank results; The evaluation index system.**

## 1. Introduction

Think-tank, is an important part of national soft power, the new think-tank, is to build the Chinese characteristic new think-tank, one of the most important aspects of the new pattern of development strategic target. University new think-tank, refers to rely on colleges and universities of professional, high quality talent resources in the field of interdisciplinary formed as to research in a variety of policy and service of modern society as our duty Colleges and universities, a think-tank in new think-tank system with Chinese characteristics. In the new period of strategic research, policy recommendations, talent training, public opinion guide, for diplomacy. Around the key areas and key links and problems to be solved on cohesion, and made significant breakthrough. To promote the national management system and management ability of modern. But now there is still a think tank research in Chinese colleges and universities into light - quantity, quality, form spread, content innovation, etc.

With the deepening and all-round implementation of the construction of new-type think tanks with Chinese characteristics, how to deepen the reform of the mechanism of evaluation and application transformation of university think tanks and produce more high-quality think tanks? How to construct a set of scientific and reasonable evaluation index system of new-type University think tank with Chinese characteristics? How to solve the problem faced by the Innovation of University think tank? How to speed up the construction of university think tanks? How to improve the overall level of service of university think tanks? How to plan the future characteristic development path of the new-type University think tank? It is an urgent question to be answered in front of the builders of new-type think tanks in colleges and universities in the new era.

### 1.1. Scope of university think tanks

In 2012, the Ministry of Education stressed that universities should focus on major international issues, target national development strategies and strengthen the construction of think tanks. In

2013, General Secretary Xi Jinping first raised the goal of building a “New type of think tank with Chinese characteristics” noting that the think tank is an important part of the country’s soft power, and that the construction of a new type of think tank with Chinese characteristics should be actively explored, providing high-quality intellectual support for central scientific decision-making. Think tank construction has been raised to a national strategic height. In 2014, the Ministry of Education formulated the “Promotion plan for the construction of new-type University think tanks with Chinese characteristics”, which lays out the overall arrangement and requirements for the construction of university think tanks, and provides the policy basis and direction for the construction of new-type language think tanks with Chinese characteristics in universities. In 2015, the central government issued the opinions on strengthening the construction of new-type think tanks with Chinese characteristics, proposing that a new type of think tank system with Chinese characteristics should be established by 2020 with a clear positioning, distinctive features, an appropriate scale and a rational layout, giving full play to the important functions of the new-type think tank with Chinese characteristics, such as political advice, theoretical innovation, public opinion guidance, social service and public diplomacy, officially kicked off the construction of the new-type think tank with Chinese characteristics. At the same time, “Promoting the development and perfection of university think tanks” as an important dimension of “Building a new pattern of development of new type of think tanks with Chinese characteristics”.

If we want to explore the problems existing in the evaluation system of the achievements of university think tanks, we must have a clear definition of university think tanks, thus carries on the analysis appraisal more pertinently. The three basic functions of modern colleges and universities are personnel training, scientific research and social service. Although the university think tank is attached to the university as an institution, but as part of the think tank. Its main function should be to give advice to decision-makers in dealing with political, social and economic issues, and to provide scientific and reasonable programs to help decision-makers make correct decisions so as to serve society. Therefore, although the university think tank is subordinate to the university, it should take the social service as the main function, supplemented by scientific research and personnel training. Therefore, this paper thinks that the university think tank should take the university scholar as the main personnel, carry out the multi-disciplinary comprehensive coordinated research to the economic and social development practice question, provide the decision-making consultation service for the government, a research institution attached to a university and independent of the faculty. For example, the National Institute of Development and strategy, Renmin University of China.

## **1.2. Classification of the achievements of university think tanks**

The evaluation system of the achievements of university think tanks is mainly aimed at evaluating the achievements of university think tanks. Only the achievements of university think tanks are clearly defined, to analyse more clearly the problems existing in the existing results evaluation system. The current evaluation system of the achievements of think tanks is mainly based on periodical papers, but ignores other forms of scientific research achievements.

The results of the first kind of university think tanks can be classified as scientific research results of academic output. It mainly includes periodical papers, conference papers, conference reports and research reports, academic teaching materials and books which are compiled or translated by university researchers, other publications, such as scholarly monographs and newsletters, should be classified as the work of such think tanks.

The results of the second kind of university think tanks can be classified as the decision-making recommendations to obtain the approval of the leaders. The strategic research reports produced by university think tanks on topical issues or some policy recommendations submitted by individual researchers have been approved and circled by the leaders of relevant departments,

and some applied research in university think tanks were adopted by government departments and successfully translated into policy documents, etc. These results can be classified in this scope. The applied results produced through the collaborative research of university think tanks, which have a forward-looking effect on social development, can also be classified as this area of results. The results of the third kind of university think tanks can be classified as the results of academic public opinion leading. The output of university think tanks is not only to provide alternative plans and suggestions for policy makers, but also to serve the society. In the event of major social events and issues related to social development, by accepting telephone interviews, participating in conferences, forums and TV programs, university researchers make academic statements, objectively analyze problems, and interpret state policies and public policies that contribute to social development, this kind of academic speech activities, which guide public opinion and maintain social stability, should also be regarded as the output of university think tanks.

## 2. Methods

The evaluation of the achievements of think tanks is a core work of knowledge production, and its quality directly affects the development of various types of think tanks in China. To sum up, there are the following problems in the evaluation of university think tanks in China:

### 2.1. The evaluation criteria are not scientific enough

There is no clear orientation in the current evaluation of the achievements of many think tanks in our country. The evaluation of the achievements of think tanks should not only meet the requirements of strict supervision of academic quality, but also meet the requirements of being helpful to the actual development of society, we should focus on the orientation of serving the social and economic development. Therefore, the criterion of evaluation of achievements lies in that scientific research achievements play a good service role to social and economic development and have a higher academic quality. At present, the evaluation of scientific research achievements in most colleges and universities in China is mainly based on the academic achievements such as academic papers, research funds and works. Although some colleges and universities have realized the importance of the application results of policy consultation, they have tried out the "Dual-track system" of academic and decision-making research in the recognition of the results, but in the specific operation level, it further strengthens the "Only instruction theory", that is, according to the research results obtained a certain level above the number of leadership instructions or government departments adopted and levels to give corresponding awards. This simple "Only sign theory" evaluation method is not only not rigorous enough, also can not be applied to the results of accurate evaluation; at the same time, the current evaluation of the achievements of think tanks attaches great importance to the factors such as the journal Grade, the impact factor and the cited quantity of the papers published, and has relatively standardized evaluation criteria, but this can not fully reflect the level and value of the achievements of the university think tanks. Due to the lack of attention to the actual transformed achievements and the lack of corresponding assessment standards, Chinese universities tend to put more emphasis on research and development, less on transformation, more emphasis on papers and less on patents, and a large number of scientific researchers only pay attention to the publication of papers, it is not beneficial to the healthy development of university think tanks in our country that the theory in published papers has not been applied to practice. Therefore, the existing university think tank achievement evaluation lacks the scientific examination standard, the evaluation result can not obtain the university scientific research personnel's approval, will further suppress the university scientific research personnel to the policy consultation applied result research enthusiasm.

## 2.2. The evaluation wasn't comprehensive enough

China's university think tanks have gathered a large number of scientific research talents and accumulated tens of thousands of scientific research achievements. Among these achievements, there are some forward-looking scientific research academic achievements for social development, for example, the construction of the Greater Changsha Metropolitan Region is a proposal put forward by scholars to demonstrate its scientific and feasibility, and then adopted by the government and put into practice. Such forward looking results are fundamentally different from the government's requirements and subjects, the university think tank scholar carries on the research to propose the corresponding policy suggestion the supply achievement. For the scientific and reasonable evaluation of such forward-looking university think tank achievements, it is impossible to consider from the current evaluation system of university think tank achievements, and for the academic achievements that guide public opinion, for example, the academic speech and articles published on the network media platform, the correct guidance of public opinion through interviews and forums, etc. , are not included in the current content of the evaluation of university think tanks. Therefore, the current content of the evaluation of the achievements of the university think tanks is missing, and it is impossible to evaluate the achievements of these types of university think tanks fairly.

## 2.3. Less attention was paid to the application of outcome evaluation

At present, the evaluation of the achievements of university think tanks in China takes the customer principle as the practical starting point, and the government, as the practical purchaser of the achievements of university think tanks, adopts the method of "Who uses and who evaluates", and the government is the evaluation subject in the evaluation system, it is used to evaluate the quality of the achievements of university think tanks. However, insufficient attention has been paid to the evaluation of the results obtained, and the effective combination of the evaluation of the results of the university think tanks with the evaluation of the work performance of the university and the evaluation of the professional titles of the teachers has not been made, because of the serious influence of the traditional evaluation of academic and Scientific Research, the simple conversion between the achievements of think tanks and the achievements of academic and scientific research can not really meet the actual needs of the evaluation of the achievements of think tanks, can Not lead to effective internal competition among think-tank researchers. For example, in a certain university, it is stipulated in the system of evaluation of research tasks and awards for achievements in the humanities and social sciences that the indicators for evaluation of research tasks are funds for scientific research, academic papers and academic works, however, academic journals, applied achievements and award-winning achievements do not belong to the task evaluation index, and only the corresponding score accounting is carried out for them. However, the performance award in this method stipulates that the award allocation is linked to the scientific research task, it is obvious that this kind of evaluation method will cause the dissatisfaction of university researchers, which reduces their work enthusiasm and is not conducive to the healthy development of university think tanks, so it is necessary to pay enough attention to the application of the evaluation of think tanks.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Constructing a scientific and reasonable evaluation system for the achievements of university think tanks

In the process of constructing the evaluation system of university think tanks, we should consider the systematic and unity of the evaluation system, and consider the particularity of different types of university think tanks. In selecting the indicators of the evaluation system of university think tanks, the principles of comprehensiveness, Penetrability, refinement and objectivity should be

followed, and the objective data and subjective factors should be combined. This will make the evaluation system of university think tanks more scientific and reasonable, and a more reasonable evaluation method should be worked out for the indexes that can not be quantified, which are in line with the refinement and Penetrability, so that the operation of the evaluation system in line with the principles of fairness and justice. The content of the current evaluation system of the achievements of university think tanks in China is mainly aimed at the evaluation of the published academic journals and other academic research achievements, while the evaluation of the applied scientific research achievements is almost not involved, the phenomenon of "Attaching importance to papers and neglecting transformation" is very serious. Therefore, when constructing the evaluation system of the achievements of university think tanks, we need to include all kinds of achievements of university think tanks, and base ourselves on the reality of social development in our country, from the functional orientation of University think tanks, this paper evaluates the results of university think tanks on the development of society, the guidance of public opinion and the degree of participation in government policy-making, and pays attention to the evaluation of the academic quality of the results, it is also necessary to have reasonable evaluation criteria for the results of actual transformation. For example, the evaluation of the actual transformation results depends not only on whether they have been approved by the leaders, but also on whether they have had a beneficial impact on the microeconomics and political development. The evaluation of academic statements and reports issued by scientific researchers in colleges and universities should evaluate both their academic quality and their influence on public opinion, in order to further ensure that the university think tank results of the evaluation system of scientific and rational.

### **3.2. Improving the assessment content of the achievements of university think tanks**

There are two main ways to evaluate the achievements of university think tanks: subjective evaluation and objective evaluation. Subjective evaluation is easy to mix personal subjective preference and emotion into the evaluation process, so it can be more reasonable by combining subjective and objective evaluation, and include the evaluation of different types of think tanks. At present, the evaluation system of the achievements of the university think tanks is relatively perfect for the evaluation of academic achievements, but it lacks the corresponding evaluation of the achievements of the public opinion-led academic achievements and the actual transformation, therefore, it is necessary to construct a reasonable evaluation method to evaluate such achievements. For example, the evaluation of the achievements of forward-looking think tanks and those that need time to be verified should be different from the evaluation of the application achievements in the subject category, which are quick to take effect and are issued by the government, and to construct a feasible evaluation method to evaluate the results of different types of applied think tanks, and to combine modern technical means, in this paper, the methods of data mining, data accumulation and visualization are used to provide technical support for the evaluation of university think tank, which makes the evaluation of university think tank flexible and Penetrability. The results of public opinion leading in public academic speech can be evaluated by the combination of subjective and objective evaluation by setting quantitative index and peer undervaluation. Only by constantly improving the assessment content and a reasonable evaluation mechanism can the quality of the achievements of the university think tanks be improved and the achievements of the various think tanks emerge.

### **3.3. Strengthening the importance of the application of results evaluation**

The evaluation of the achievements of university think tanks is not only for the evaluation of the value and academic quality of the achievements, but also for the recognition of the work of university researchers and a performance evaluation index. To attach sufficient importance to the evaluation of the achievements of university think tanks, so that it can be effectively combined

with work performance evaluation and professional title evaluation, and to recognize the achievements of scientific researchers in think tanks, which are linked to various reward systems, it can effectively stimulate the enthusiasm of university researchers, and further promote the development of university think tanks in a better direction. Therefore, it is necessary to perfect the traditional academic evaluation, integrate the results evaluation into the performance evaluation system on its original basis, and introduce or innovate some policies and mechanisms which are in line with the development of the think tank results evaluation. At present, for example, Peking University has opened up a new sequence of researchers for the think tank team on the original professorship. The researchers of the think tank also have a career structure, and the researchers of the think tank are promoted and paid in line with the professorship. This policy makes the achievements of university think tanks into the scope of performance evaluation, the results of the evaluation has been applied, it is obvious to strengthen the application of the results of the evaluation of the degree of attention. The construction and development of university think tanks can not be separated from the deep-heart scientific research of think tank-type talents. Therefore, it is necessary to fully arouse their working enthusiasm and attach great importance to the evaluation of the results they have obtained, the application of achievement evaluation in performance evaluation and reward system will promote the development of achievement evaluation of university think tanks and accelerate the development of university think tanks.

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