Higher Education Reform
Facing
Local and Global Changes

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ABSTRACT

University is a place to create graduates that are able to accommodate the society requirements related to societal needs, industrial needs, and professional needs. To accommodate those requirements graduates have to have intelligence, responsibilities, and be able to work on their tasks in particular fields.

In the framework of forming curriculum based on competency in effort to produce the graduates, innovation is needed in learning process. The conventional learning process using one-way method could not promote students to be more proactive and have creative thinking. Regarding that, a new paradigm is needed in learning process. It consists of various activities strategic where students actively involved, teacher act as a facilitator and motivator, two-ways communication is essential. It also requires various activities that have to be done by students to encourage them explaining their opinion. Therefore a new learning process has to be formed and so called Activity Based Learning where the thinking process comprises learning outcomes, instructional methods and assessment system.

Particularly in legal education, where the law is an instrument that is used to change the society (law as a tool of social engineering), the law could be enforced and implemented by graduates in their life. There is characteristic distinguishing in law faculty learning process, which is more focused on case study. Activity Based Learning is important to improving the quality of law students and the positive aspects of students like communication skill; self-confidence; ability to explore new findings. Law faculty of University of Surabaya has been three years in applying Activity Based Learning as a learning process and it brings progressing and positive impact.

Keywords: Innovation, learning process, activities strategic, legal education

INTRODUCTION

As a higher education institution, universities have responsibility to produce graduates that are able to accommodate challenges emerging in society, such as graduates producing high quality profile and competence. These graduates must have some requirements:

(i) personality development ability
(ii) know how and know why ability
(iii) know how to do
(iv) ability to be a role model and independent as well as to make decision wisely
(v) ability to assimilate with society and appreciate pluralism values and harmony.

Higher education is an institution that teaches students to be a civilized person and a good professional person. Higher education has a unique position because it has various functions:

a. house of learning;

b. house of culture;

c. guardian of values;

d. agent of change;

e. producers of leaders (Zen, 2005)

Higher education is an effective instrument for:

a. developing all of the potential of people: cognitive, affective, and psychomotoric;

b. socialization and inheritance of value;

c. social interaction and acculturation of culture;

d. vertical mobility and social transformation;

e. acceleration toward the advance, modern, civilized living society. (Rachman, 2005)

To reach the goals above, the DIKTI addresses 3 (three) societal needs toward higher education institutions, which are societal, industrial and professional needs. Therefore, these institutions must synchronise their vision and mission through curriculum elaboration, providing facilities and other strategic planning.

In legal education, a critic emerges from society where they do not satisfy with the outcome of legal education. It is because most of legal graduates are "ready to train" not "ready to use". Due to this critic, we must endeavour to answer by providing high quality legal graduates.

University of Surabaya Faculty of Law has a vision "to be an innovator in learning, research and services in business law". The essential meaning of it is that the Faculty of Law wants to perform the needs of business and industrial society to achieve social welfare.

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