

On the Cost Accounting of Institutions of Higher Learning Based on the Basic Guidance of Cost Accounting of Institutions

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Abstract: In 2019, the policy of “Basic guide of cost accounting of public institutions” was issued, which means the cost accounting of colleges and universities is imperative, which is also the inevitable requirement of “Government accounting system”, it is an important measure to improve the level of accounting in colleges and universities. This paper analyzes the current situation of college cost accounting and some problems existing in the process of college cost accounting, and puts forward some pertinent suggestions, with a view to college cost accounting from theory to practice to provide some valuable reference.

1. Introduction

With the continuous reform of the accounting system, the government accounting system will be implemented in the administrative institutions from 2019. In the past, the accounting of colleges and universities used the cash basis of accounting, that is, they handled the accounts according to the time when the funds were received and paid, the accuracy of financial data is not high, in the cash basis, the cost accounting work can not be carried out. The government accounting system is based on accrual basis and cash basis, and the accrual basis is introduced. The cost accounting of public institution has entered the practical stage. The cost accounting work of colleges and universities is concerned by all circles of society. In fact, some people also put forward that colleges and universities should advance the cost accounting work as soon as possible. In December 2019, the Ministry of Finance officially issued the basic guidelines on cost accounting for public institutions, which include cost accounting principles, cost objects, scope of accounting, aggregation methods and distribution, it provides a reference for colleges and universities to carry out cost accounting. However, the current situation of cost accounting management in colleges and universities is not very optimistic, and the current cost accounting work in colleges and universities in China has hardly been carried out. There are many reasons why colleges and universities have not carried out cost accounting work, for example, the Ministry of Finance attaches great importance to the compilation of the annual financial and final accounts management in colleges and universities, the education department attaches more importance to the cultivation of outstanding students in colleges and universities, the managers of colleges and universities do not have a strong idea to carry out the cost accounting work, and the performance appraisal guidance pays too much attention to the results of the business management in colleges and universities, etc. . How to effectively,

high-quality, quickly promote colleges and universities to carry out cost accounting management has become an urgent matter.

2. Problems Existing in Cost Accounting of Colleges and Universities

2.1 The Relevant Supporting System of Cost Accounting is Not Perfect.

At present, apart from the “Basic guidelines on cost accounting for public institutions” issued by the Ministry of Finance in December 2019, there are no more targeted operational guidelines on cost accounting at this stage, compared with the general institutions, the business of colleges and universities is more complex, and the particularity of the business of colleges and universities makes the basic guide less referential. The existing government accounting system only carries on the financial accounting and the budget accounting, has no request to the cost accounting, at present lacks a set of unified standard concrete university cost accounting Operation Guide.

2.2 The Management of the Unit Did Not Attach Enough Importance to the Sense of Cost Management in Colleges and Universities

Colleges and universities are public institutions, and the main economic sources are students’ tuition income and financial allocation. The main goal of running a school is to educate people and train talents for the society, so most of the university administrators do not have a strong sense of cost management. Colleges and universities pay more attention to budget than cost accounting, even to the end of there will be a sudden use of budget funds. In the traditional sense of the university administrators, the level of cost control does not directly affect their immediate interests, and the university administrators’ cognition and management level of cost control management are relatively weak, influenced by the old ideas and the old idea system, most College financial staff will not take the initiative to learn the cost accounting skills, even in the subconscious of the cost accounting psychological resistance.

2.3 The Cost Accounting Method is Difficult to Determine

At present, colleges and universities do not have an operational system of unit cost accounting methods to follow, although the “Basic guidelines for Chen Ben Accounting of public institutions” clearly states that according to the information requirements of unit cost accounting, the cost accounting may choose the complete cost method or the manufacturing cost method, but there is no unified standard on the basis of what, how to apportion the cost, how to choose the cost accounting method correctly, and how to determine the accounting scope. In addition to the complexity of the university business, related to teaching costs, management costs, research costs, student work costs, and so on, specific to each school how to choose accounting methods, the industry has many different views.

2.4 Lack of Financial Software Informatization

Cost management can not be separated from the support of intelligent financial software. In recent years, colleges and universities have paid more attention to the construction of financial management information system, but because there are many problems left over from history, the foundation of early financial personnel’s information ability is weak, for various reasons, such as the late start of the use of software, the financial informatization of colleges and universities is far from reaching the expected level. Taking the financial management system of higher education

institutions as an example, which uses more financial accounting software at present, the software emphasizes accounting rather than management, and lacks supporting cost accounting module, which leads to the difficulty of cost accounting, the cost control in colleges and universities is not effective, which affects the efficiency and process of cost accounting in colleges and universities^[1].

3. Suggestions on Cost Accounting in Colleges and Universities

3.1 Establish and Improve the Financial System and Improve the Cost Accounting System

In the framework of the “Basic guidelines”, the relevant government departments should as soon as possible for colleges and universities to develop cost accounting operating guidelines. Combined with “Government accounting system”, cost accounting will be combined with it, so that cost accounting more practical operation. At the same time, colleges and universities themselves should pay attention to the development of internal financial management, formulate cost management methods internally, introduce cost management into corresponding evaluation mechanism, and combine cost input with performance evaluation, promote cost accounting work. Colleges and universities can learn from the enterprise cost management methods, gradually establish and improve the internal cost management system, study the enterprise cost allocation methods, to ensure the cost management work in accordance with the system.

3.2 To Strengthen the Awareness of Cost Management and Integrate Cost Management into the Process of Performance Appraisal

Set up the basic consciousness of cost management, realize the cognition transformation from the leadership level to the grass-roots staff, change the traditional idea of unit cost management from the concept. Integrating the concept of cost management into the daily work assessment, combining the budget performance integration system, establishing the evaluation criteria of cost management assessment, encouraging the executive to effectively control the cost in the process of budget implementation management, thus in the daily process of strengthening the concept of cost management. In addition, the local government or the department in charge of colleges and universities may incorporate the educational cost and cost indicators of students into the school assessment system, to force schools to pay more attention to cost accounting. At the same time, colleges and universities can also link the cost control of each department with the performance of the department staff, so as to urge the college staff to pay attention to the cost management and supervise the rationality and necessity of the school revenue and expenditure

3.3 To Determine the Method of Cost Separate Accounting

According to its own characteristics, colleges and universities should choose scientific and reasonable cost accounting methods to improve the level of cost management^[2]. The key points of cost accounting are: to determine cost object, cost accounting period, cost accounting scope, cost collection and distribution method.

3.4 Define the Cost Accounting Method

According to the basic guide, universities can choose manufacturing cost method and complete cost method. Because of the complexity of cost composition, the diversity of accounting objects, and the large proportion of indirect expenses, the complete cost method can be used for accounting. Under the complete cost method, the direct costs are directly grouped according to the

corresponding items, including the teaching costs and the indirect costs such as the administrative, logistics and retirement expenses, according to the cause and process of cost formation, activity-based costing (ABC) is assigned to activity-based centers.

4. Strengthening the Informatization of Financial Software

Government departments should actively explore the establishment of a scientific and unified cost accounting management software, the development of cost accounting module, improve the original financial software functions. The cost accounting modules of each department should be related to each other, realize the open sharing of accounting data, and explore the construction of Financial Cost Accounting Information Integrated Management Service Platform. The financial departments of colleges and universities should train the financial personnel in cost accounting through various channels, improve the level of accounting skills of the financial personnel, and make the cost management work carried out smoothly in colleges and universities.

5. Conclusion

To sum up, the active implementation of cost management accounting in colleges and universities is an inevitable trend of China's economic and social development. As an important component of the reform of the government accounting system, colleges and universities must establish and improve the cost accounting management system as soon as possible, as well as colleges and universities in the cost accounting work of the problems, in depth study to put forward specific countermeasures, this paper can promote colleges and universities in the future cost accounting provides an important reference.

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