

Research on the Problems and Countermeasures in the Financial Audit and Reimbursement of Local Colleges and Universities

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ABSTRACT

Financial audit and reimbursement are the basic premise of accounting, which will directly affect the quality of financial information. With the increasing investment in higher education and the increasing economic activities in colleges and universities, the types of financial reimbursement are becoming more and more complex, and the contradictions in the audit of reimbursement are becoming increasingly prominent. In this paper, based on the analysis of the current situation of financial audit and reimbursement in local colleges and universities, we sum up some corresponding optimization countermeasures for reference in view of the existing problems and difficulties.

Keywords: local colleges and universities, financial audit and reimbursement, problems, countermeasures

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the funds of local colleges and universities have shown the characteristics of diversified sources and a rapid increase in the total amount. The types of economic activities in colleges and universities have become increasingly complex, and new problems in financial audit and reimbursement have also increased. Financial audit and reimbursement is becoming more difficult. This requires us to continually innovate the financial management system, improve the financial personnel's professional skill, update their theoretical knowledge to adapt to the development of the new situation, and further improve the financial work.

II. CURRENT SITUATION AND DIFFICULTIES OF FINANCIAL AUDIT AND REIMBURSEMENT IN LOCAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

A. Various types of original vouchers with different standards

The original vouchers are effective written proofs that can prove the authenticity and compliance of economic and business activities. According to the source, original vouchers can be divided into original vouchers from outside and internal original vouchers. With the exception of the unified and printed bills of the State Administration of Taxation or finance, other original vouchers from outside in the actual work, due to the different nature of the unit, are numerous bills with unique industrial characteristics. The internal source document is made and used by the unit itself,

and there is no unified standard and regulation. The diversity and disunity of the types of source document also make some lawbreakers take undue advantage of the loophole and provide non-conforming, illegal and inauthentic bills for customers, which brings great difficulties to the financial audit and reimbursement. When facing various original vouchers, the financial auditors can't judge the validity accurately and timely, which affects the efficiency of financial work and the service satisfaction of teachers and students.

B. Paying no attention to the construction of financial audit and reimbursement process

Standardized process of financial audit and reimbursement is the basic support to guide the related financial personnel to carry out their work orderly. Influenced by the traditional concept, many local colleges and universities do not pay attention to the construction of financial audit and reimbursement process, or even they don't have any standardized financial audit and reimbursement process. When reimbursing, the handling personnel is accustomed to going to the leader for signature first, and then to financial office for financial audit and reimbursement. When it fails to meet the reimbursement requirements after the financial audit and is returned, the phenomenon of incomprehension and unhappiness of both parties easily appears. Even some teachers think that as long as the business has been signed by the leader, the financial personnel should be unconditionally subordinated to the superior, follow the arrangement of the leader and reimburse. In this way, the situation that the leaders sign first and then audit

makes the financial personnel relax their vigilance, fear and have the psychology of dilemma when they audit the business signed by the leaders, which seriously affects the autonomy of the financial personnel, destroys the characteristics of financial work--strict system and strong principle, and weakens the role of accounting audit and supervision, brings difficulties to a good financial work environment.

C. Imperfect financial audit and reimbursement system

With the rapid development of economy, there are more and more new businesses, such as the integration of industry and education, school-enterprise cooperation, etc. In many local colleges and universities, the system updates too slowly, which is far from meeting the actual needs of the current. Due to the imperfect system, there exists a current situation that the financial processing procedures are incomplete, not unified and not standardized in the financial audit and reimbursement. Some teachers ignore the rules and regulations, use their power and interpersonal relations to seek for personal privileges and take undue advantage of the loophole in the system. They do not follow the prescribed process and procedures, thus providing many staffs with opportunities for favoritism and fraud, and also bringing huge potential risks to the work of financial personnel.

D. Distorted source document is inconsistent with the actual economic business

Due to the particularity of the colleges and universities, two holidays exists in each year. Meanwhile, the statistical report data of the financial statements is based on the year. Usually, the colleges and universities stop the reimbursement business at the end of December every year, resulting in a large number of reimbursement business concentrated in the beginning of semester, before the holidays and at the end of the year. A large number of reimbursements are concentrated together, which put a lot of pressure on financial work. It's prone to error. Especially at the end of the year, in the face of a lot of project funds with time limit, the project funds will be recovered if they aren't be fully used. It will followed by the serious sudden spending. In order to extract funds, some invoices that are inconsistent with the actual economic business appear, such as true invoices with fake content, fake invoices with fake content or fake invoices with true content. The phenomena, such as falsely making out invoices, mixing the spurious with the genuine to extract funds also exist. In addition, in recent years, the emergence of new things, such as new electronic bills and various network payment means, has brought new challenges to financial audit. Electronic bills are printed and reimbursed by dealers, while many local colleges and universities do not have corresponding electronic duplicate check reimbursement system, so it is difficult to ensure that the same electronic bills are not

reimbursed repeatedly. Meanwhile, the financial auditors can only judge the validity and legitimacy of the bill from the bill itself, not the authenticity of the bill and the events.

E. Financial auditors with low comprehensive quality and business ability

In the process of financial audit and reimbursement, the role of financial auditors is very important, not only related to the effectiveness of the whole financial work, but also reflected the overall management level of a college or university on the other side. In recent years, the number of students and funds in local colleges and universities has increased rapidly, but the number of financial personnel is almost unchanged under the influence of authorized strength. In addition, the core work of the colleges and universities is teaching. For a long time, there is a lack of evaluation mechanism and corresponding reward and punishment system for the working ability of financial personnel, and the cultivation of comprehensive quality and professional ability of financial personnel is ignored, which keeps the financial auditors at the bottom of the colleges and universities for a long time, with a narrow scope of knowledge, outdated knowledge structure, weak work enthusiasm and single accounting theory, professional skill level does not meet the requirements of actual work. The financial personnel work in a passive way with demotivation, and their professional judgment ability is weak. They have an inaccurate or poor understanding of the system or the corresponding rules and regulations. Meanwhile, different people have different professional judgments on the same business. A series of disharmonious phenomena follow in financial audit and reimbursement work due to human factors, even adverse effects and losses to colleges and universities appear. This not only affects the effectiveness of the smooth development of financial audit and reimbursement in colleges and universities, but also hinders the colleges' and universities' sustainable, stable and healthy development.

F. The faculty and staffs lack the cognitive ability of financial bills and systems, and their self-discipline awareness is weak

Under the current market conditions, there are many types of bills. Some dealers issue fake invoices or irregular bills to teachers for tax evasion, tax avoidance or other reasons. Since the teachers are not professional financial personnel, they cannot judge the validity of the bills. In the face of the increasingly sophisticated counterfeiting technology and the lack of professional equipment and systems, counterfeit bills are even more difficult to distinguish. In addition, some teachers put their faith in luck, knowing that there was a problem with the bills, and economic matters are against the rules and regulations, they still turned a blind eye to it, and even took the initiative to counterfeit and obtain

state funds, ignoring the rules and regulations, and acting boldly, it increases the difficulty of financial audit and reimbursement, even leads to poor financial communication and affects the service efficiency of financial work.

G. Weak audit binding force

Since the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, with the emphasis on internal control, local colleges and universities have also strengthened the construction of internal audit. However, due to the professional and legal nature of audit business, there are contradictions among work capacity, workload and personnel allocation in actual work. There is a contradictory phenomenon that internal matters of the colleges and universities are audited by their own staff. It is easily interfered by human factors of superior leaders and their social relations, and it is difficult to carry out work independently, which affects the execution of audit, weakens the binding force and the restriction of audit. Therefore, it is not able to form a strong supervision over the control of financial audit and reimbursement, and timely assess and eliminate the internal control risks arising therefrom.

III. SUGGESTIONS FOR OPTIMIZING FINANCIAL AUDIT AND REIMBURSEMENT IN VIEW OF THE PROBLEMS EXISTING IN FINANCIAL AUDIT AND REIMBURSEMENT

A. Improving the financial audit and reimbursement process and adhering to the process of "review before approval"

The standardized financial audit and reimbursement process provides an easy working environment for the financial staff, as well as clear guidelines for the handling personnel, avoiding many detours, and greatly improving the efficiency and service ability of handling financial affairs. Adhering to the process of "review before approval", the financial personnel first review the original vouchers provided by the handling personnel, and then the leader signed and approved the bills that meet the requirements after the review, and finally the handling personnel go to the financial department to handle the payment business. In this way, the process of "review before approval" realizes the control from the source, transforms the post-supervision into the pre supervision, reduces the return rate, and strengthens the supervision at the leadership level. At the same time, it reduces the financial risks for leaders who do not understand financial knowledge and enhances the initiative of accounting supervision.

B. Establishing a sound financial management system, and strengthening audit and the construction of internal control

The perfect financial management system of colleges and universities is the basic guarantee and

basis for the effective implementation of financial and audit work. The internal control system is the key to financial management. Each system restricts and relies on each other. Each college or university should establish and improve its own internal control system in line with its actual situation to ensure the normal operation and protect itself from the economic crisis. Financial audit and reimbursement is only a part of internal control. Strengthening audit can make everyone consciously abide by all laws and regulations under supervision, so as not to violate the moral bottom line and touch the red line of the law. Handling personnel should be more vigilant, consciously restrict their work behavior, and improve the efficiency of financial reimbursement.

C. Enhancing the financial personnel's comprehensive quality and professional skills for audit and reimbursement, and raising their awareness of risk prevention

With the continuous reform of the national education system, the country has increased investment in education, the accounting system of the new government implemented. Business difficulties have increased, and the requirements for financial personnel have become higher. Financial personnel should take the initiative to learn new theory, new business and new system, master advanced professional technology to meet the requirements of the new situation, and improve their professional skills and comprehensive quality. To do a good job in the basic work of financial audit and reimbursement is conducive to better ensure the authenticity and integrity of financial information. The financial audit and reimbursement work is of great responsibility, high risk and strong principle. The financial personnel must not only improve their business ability, but also pay attention to communication methods and skills, and achieve self-discipline, self-love and self-encouragement. Don't make fake accounts, and learn and master the knowledge of economy, law and management in multiple dimensions, so as to enhance their ability to resist risks and raise their awareness of risk prevention.

D. Communicating, releasing and publicizing financial policies in a timely manner through multiple channels to improve the faculty and staffs' understanding of the financial system in colleges and universities

A good financial environment is not only created by the financial personnel, but also needs the joint efforts of all teachers, even the support of leaders. First of all, the financial department should make full use of the modern network information platform to timely communicate, release and publicize the financial policies, make the information symmetrical, and hang various types of financial reimbursement approval process on the financial bulletin board and

reimbursement hall to achieve "system on the wall", make brochures and distribute them to all colleges and departments for financial knowledge publicity. Secondly, the "financial secretary" of each college and department shall be trained on financial reimbursement in a regular or irregular basis, from the basic things, such as bills pasting method, requirements on writing format, instructions for filling in reimbursement form, to the reimbursement approval process, operation method of online reimbursement platform, etc., and then the "financial secretary" shall be responsible for the guidance of financial related knowledge of his own department or college, which will give full play to the second level "financial secretary". Multiple transmissions of financial information have been formed, and the basic financial personnel team has been expanded virtually. Everyone has rules to follow, to abide, to act according to the rules and regulations, which will purify the financial environment and help to improve the management level of colleges and universities.

E. Innovating incentive mechanism to improve the work enthusiasm of financial personnel

Financial work is a job with strong technicality and poor mobility, and the financial personnel have been locked in a job for a long time. However, various incentive mechanisms of the colleges or universities are more inclined to teaching and scientific research, which makes the income gap widened. Meanwhile, financial personnel are busy with work and they have heavy responsibility. So it is hard to find time and energy to improve them. Their long-term self-realization and satisfaction are low. They are in a disadvantaged position both in spiritual and material incentives, which affects their work enthusiasm. Local colleges and universities should establish and improve the incentive mechanism of financial personnel, let the spiritual incentive and material incentive go hand in hand, give fair and reasonable incentive performance distribution in material, and not blindly favor teaching and scientific research. At the same time, formulate reasonable promotion and incentive mechanism of financial personnel in spirit to meet the needs of professional growth, to enhance the satisfaction and achievement of financial personnel. Promote the enthusiasm and innovative consciousness of financial personnel, and gradually form a mechanism of self-motivation, self-improvement and self-development.

IV. CONCLUSION

Financial audit and reimbursement is an important part of financial management. It is also the basic premise of forming high-quality financial information. High-quality financial information can provide effective decision-making basis for the colleges' and universities' decision-making development, and promote the colleges' and universities' sustainable,

healthy and stable development. A good financial environment is inseparable from the standardized reimbursement process, a sound system, and excellent financial expertise to achieve the dual functions of financial management and services of the financial department. All local colleges and universities should take reasonable and effective measures to solve the problems, improve the colleges' and universities' management level, and promote their own development.

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