

Thoughts and Exploration on Fixed Asset Management in Higher Education Institutions under the New Financial Accounting System

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Abstract: With the progressive and comprehensive implementation of the new financial accounting system, the landscape of fixed assets management in universities is undergoing transformative changes, presenting both unprecedented challenges and promising new opportunities. This article delves into the intricate details of the current situation surrounding fixed asset management within the academic setting, under the auspices of this novel system. It seeks to meticulously examine and uncover the myriad problems and shortcomings that have surfaced as a result of these changes. By engaging in a thorough and detailed analysis, the article aims to formulate a comprehensive suite of targeted countermeasures and insightful suggestions. These proposals are designed to substantially enhance the efficiency and elevate the quality of fixed asset management within the framework of the new system. Ultimately, the goal is to establish a robust foundation that underpins the stable operation and fosters the sustainable development of universities. Furthermore, these strategies will empower institutions of higher learning to optimize the allocation and utilization of their invaluable educational resources, ensuring a brighter and more prosperous future for all stakeholders involved.

Keywords: Universities; New Financial Accounting System; Fixed Asset Management

1. Introduction

Fixed assets, as an important material foundation of universities, are not only an indispensable condition for the school to carry out teaching, scientific research, and administrative management work, but also an

important indicator to measure the comprehensive strength and educational efficiency of the school. The level of management directly affects the operational efficiency and teaching quality of the school. With the continuous development of education, the types and quantities of fixed assets are increasing, and the difficulty of management is also increasing. The introduction of the new financial accounting system has put forward stricter and more refined requirements for the accounting and management of fixed assets, aiming to ensure the safety, integrity, and effective utilization of fixed assets through measures such as standardizing accounting, strengthening internal controls, and improving asset utilization efficiency. [1]

However, in the implementation process of the new system, the management of fixed assets in universities still faces many challenges, such as inadequate management systems, outdated management methods, and low professional quality of management personnel, which leads to low efficiency in fixed asset management and frequent occurrences of asset loss and waste. Therefore, how to strengthen fixed asset management under the new financial accounting system has become an urgent problem for universities to solve. This not only relates to the preservation and appreciation of school assets, but also directly affects the school's sustainable development ability and the improvement of education and teaching quality. [2,3]

2. The Current Situation of Fixed Asset Management in Universities under the New Financial Accounting System

2.1 Preliminary Establishment of Fixed Asset Management System

With the rapid development of education, universities have gradually increased their

emphasis on fixed asset management. In order to standardize fixed asset management behavior and improve management efficiency, many universities have initially established a set of fixed asset management systems. These systems usually include management regulations for various links such as the purchase, acceptance, use, maintenance, and disposal of fixed assets, clarifying the responsibilities and authorities of each link and providing institutional guarantees for the standardized management of fixed assets. [4]

2.2 Promotion of Information Management of Fixed Assets

With the rapid development of information technology, universities are gradually introducing information technology into fixed asset management. By developing a fixed asset management system or platform, universities have achieved information-based management and dynamic monitoring of fixed assets. These systems or platforms typically have functional modules such as asset management, asset inventory, asset depreciation, and asset reporting, which can help universities achieve full lifecycle management of fixed assets. Through information technology, universities can track the dynamic changes of fixed assets in real time, including key information such as asset location, status, and users, greatly improving the efficiency and accuracy of fixed asset management. [5]

2.3 Strengthening the Inventory and Counting of Fixed Assets

In order to ensure that the accounts of fixed assets match reality, universities have strengthened the work of fixed asset inventory and counting. Many universities have established regular fixed asset inventory systems to ensure that every fixed asset is accurately reflected on the books through comprehensive or partial inventory checks. During the inventory process, universities also pay attention to discovering and solving existing problems, such as discrepancies between accounts and reality, asset loss, etc., and take corresponding measures to correct and handle them.

2.4 Adjustment of Fixed Asset Definition and Value Standards

The new financial accounting system has

adjusted the definition and value standards of fixed assets, raising the unit value standard from 500 yuan to 1000 yuan, and clarifying the classification and scope of fixed assets. This adjustment makes universities pay more attention to the actual value and utilization efficiency of assets in fixed asset management, which is conducive to optimizing asset allocation and improving asset utilization efficiency.

3. The Problems of the New Financial Accounting System in the Management of Fixed Assets in Universities

Although universities have made some progress in fixed asset management, there are still some issues that need to be addressed in the implementation of the new financial accounting system.

3.1 Inadequate Implementation of Fixed Asset Management System

Although universities have established a relatively complete fixed asset management system at the institutional level, there are still many issues that cannot be ignored in the actual implementation process. On the one hand, some universities have insufficient understanding of the importance of fixed asset management systems, often viewing them as formal requirements rather than necessary means to improve management efficiency. Therefore, there is a lack of sufficient motivation and urgency in the implementation process. On the other hand, some managers have insufficient understanding and mastery of the new system, resulting in the continued use of old and non-standard management methods in practical operations, which greatly reduces the effectiveness of the implementation of the new system. In addition, due to the lack of effective supervision and assessment mechanisms, there is often a lack of effective constraints and corrective measures for the ineffective implementation of the system, which further exacerbates the situation of ineffective implementation. [6]

3.2 The Phenomenon of Discrepancies between Fixed Asset Accounts and Actual Assets is Common

There are numerous types, large quantities, and widespread distribution of fixed assets in universities, which poses great challenges to

the management of fixed assets. In practical operation, due to delayed information updates, poor communication, and other reasons, there are often significant differences between the actual situation of fixed assets and the book records. For example, some fixed assets that have been scrapped or lost are still reflected on the books due to the failure to update information in a timely manner; However, some newly added fixed assets may not be recorded in a timely manner due to negligence or poor processes. This phenomenon not only affects the accuracy and effectiveness of fixed asset management, but may also pose potential risks to the financial and asset security of schools. [7]

3.3 Low Efficiency in the Use of Fixed Assets

In the process of using fixed assets, some universities have problems such as blind purchase, repeated purchase, idle waste, etc., resulting in generally low efficiency in the use of fixed assets. Some departments or colleges lack sufficient justification and planning when purchasing fixed assets, often only considering current needs and neglecting long-term benefits, resulting in a mismatch between the purchased fixed assets and actual needs, and unable to fully play their due role. At the same time, due to the lack of effective allocation mechanisms and information sharing platforms, some fixed assets cannot be effectively shared and circulated between departments, further reducing usage efficiency. In addition, some fixed assets lack necessary maintenance and upkeep during use, resulting in decreased performance and shortened lifespan, which also affects the improvement of usage efficiency.

3.4 Irregular Depreciation and Amortization Treatment

The new financial accounting system introduces the concepts of fixed asset depreciation and intangible asset amortization, requiring universities to depreciate and amortize fixed assets and intangible assets, aiming to truly reflect the value loss and usage of fixed assets. In order to actively respond to this requirement, most universities have comprehensively carried out depreciation provision for fixed assets. However, in practical operation, some universities still have

non-standard issues in depreciation and amortization treatment. For example, some universities have failed to scientifically and reasonably determine depreciation methods and periods based on factors such as the category, useful life, and expected residual value of fixed assets, resulting in inaccurate depreciation provisions; Some universities also have similar problems in amortizing intangible assets and fail to handle them in accordance with relevant regulations.

Only through standardized depreciation provisions can the actual value and usage of assets be accurately reflected in financial reports, providing strong support for school budget preparation, funding arrangements, and other decisions.

3.5 There are Difficulties in Integrating Infrastructure Projects into the Big Account for Accounting

The new financial accounting system requires universities to merge infrastructure projects into the big account for accounting, achieving parallel registration and regular consolidation of the "big account" of infrastructure accounts and university accounting. This change enables universities to more comprehensively reflect their total assets and financial situation, which is conducive to strengthening the management and supervision of infrastructure projects. However, in practical operation, some universities still face difficulties in integrating infrastructure projects into the big account accounting. For example, some universities have a large number of infrastructure project legacy issues due to historical reasons, resulting in a heavy workload and difficulty in merging them into large accounts; Some universities lack standardization and transparency in infrastructure project management, making it difficult to smoothly integrate the work into the big account accounting.

4. Countermeasures and Suggestions for Fixed Asset Management in Universities under the New Financial Accounting System

How to strengthen fixed asset management under the new financial accounting system has become an urgent problem for universities to solve. This not only relates to the preservation and appreciation of school assets, but also

directly affects the school's sustainable development ability and the improvement of education and teaching quality. Therefore, there are the following measures to address the issues of strengthening fixed assets:

4.1 Strengthen the Construction of Fixed Asset Management System

In recent years, with the deepening implementation of the new financial accounting system, universities should deeply recognize the importance of building a fixed asset management system, regard it as the key to improving the level of fixed asset management, and gradually establish and improve a scientific and reasonable fixed asset management system. In the process of institutional construction, it is not only necessary to further improve the existing system, clarify the specific operational procedures and responsible persons for each key link of fixed assets from purchase, acceptance, use to scrapping, but also to ensure the comprehensiveness, standardization, operability, and traceability of the system content. At the same time, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the system, universities should establish a sound supervision mechanism and assessment system, regularly inspect and evaluate the implementation of the system, and seriously deal with behaviors that are poorly executed, to ensure that the system can truly take root. In addition, with the continuous implementation of the new financial accounting system and the changing needs of school development, universities should also develop detailed procurement plans, strict acceptance processes, regular maintenance plans, and standardized scrapping procedures to effectively avoid the idle, wasteful, and loss of fixed assets. By regularly revising and improving the fixed asset management system, we aim to keep it up-to-date and better adapt to the management requirements of the new situation. [8]

4.2 Enhance the Awareness of Managing Fixed Assets in Universities

Improving management awareness is a prerequisite for doing a good job in management work. Without proper understanding, measures are difficult to implement. To make everyone understand that everyone is the owner and responsible for

managing the property of universities, we need to enhance the proactive awareness of protecting the rights and interests of fixed assets, consciously safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of fixed assets, and improve the asset management awareness of all employees through publicity. From school leaders to faculty and staff, we need to ensure that everyone cares and has a responsibility, and enhance the management awareness of fixed assets in universities.

4.3 Improve the Consistency between Fixed Asset Accounts and Actual Assets

The consistency between fixed asset accounts and actual assets is the foundation for ensuring the accuracy and effectiveness of fixed asset management. Colleges and universities should strengthen the inventory of fixed assets, and conduct a comprehensive inventory and verification of fixed assets throughout the school through a combination of regular inventory and random inspections, to ensure that every fixed asset can be accurately reflected on the books. At the same time, in order to improve the efficiency and accuracy of inventory work, universities should also establish a fixed asset card and ledger system, which detailed records the source, acceptance, use location, user unit, and individual information of fixed assets, providing strong support for subsequent management and decision-making. In addition, for problems discovered during the inventory process, such as discrepancies between accounts and actual assets, asset loss, etc., universities should take timely measures to correct them and hold relevant responsible persons accountable. [9]

4.4 Improve the Efficiency of Fixed Asset Utilization

Improving the efficiency of fixed asset utilization is one of the important goals of fixed asset management in universities. Therefore, universities should actively explore effective management methods and techniques. Firstly, establishing a fixed asset sharing mechanism is an effective way to achieve resource sharing and improve utilization efficiency. Universities can establish internal fixed asset sharing platforms or systems to achieve information sharing and allocation of fixed assets between departments and faculties, avoiding duplicate purchases and idle waste.

Secondly, strengthening the maintenance and upkeep of fixed assets is also an important measure to improve usage efficiency. Universities should regularly inspect and maintain fixed assets, promptly identify and address potential issues, ensure that fixed assets are in good operating condition, and extend their service life. Finally, through regular evaluation and analysis of fixed assets, universities can understand the usage and efficiency of various assets, and make reasonable allocation or disposal of idle or inefficiently used fixed assets to further improve utilization efficiency. [10]

4.5 Standardize the Depreciation and Amortization Treatment of Fixed Assets

The new financial accounting system requires universities to depreciate and amortize fixed assets to truly reflect the value loss and usage of assets. In order to standardize the depreciation and amortization of fixed assets, universities should strictly operate in accordance with relevant regulations. Specifically, we can start from the following aspects: firstly, scientifically and reasonably determine the depreciation method and period based on factors such as the category, useful life, and expected residual value of fixed assets to ensure the accuracy of depreciation provision; Secondly, when amortizing intangible assets, they should also be handled in accordance with relevant regulations to ensure the rationality of amortization; The third is to strengthen the supervision and audit of depreciation and amortization treatment to ensure compliance with relevant regulations and standards.

4.6 Strengthen the Integration of Infrastructure Projects into the Big Account Accounting Work

In order to strengthen the integration of infrastructure projects into the accounting system, universities should take the following measures: firstly, strengthen the standardized management of infrastructure projects to ensure that they comply with relevant regulations and standards; Secondly, establish a parallel registration and regular consolidation system between infrastructure projects and the "big account" of university accounting to achieve comprehensive reflection and effective supervision of

infrastructure projects; Thirdly, strengthen the audit and supervision of infrastructure projects to ensure their compliance and transparency; The fourth is to timely revise and improve relevant systems to adapt to the new requirements of integrating infrastructure projects into big account accounting. [11]

4.7 Strengthen Financial Supervision and Internal Auditing

University financial and accounting personnel should strictly supervise their finances, strictly implement expenditure management measures and asset management related systems, and prevent the occurrence of asset leakage, spillage, dripping, and leaking. We should fully leverage the role of internal auditing in the management of fixed assets in universities, promote performance auditing of fixed assets, establish a performance evaluation system, and improve the efficiency of fixed asset utilization.

4.8 Introduce Information Management Methods

In the context of the information age, universities should fully utilize modern information technology to improve the efficiency and accuracy of fixed asset management. By introducing fixed asset management systems or software platforms, universities can achieve information-based management and dynamic monitoring of fixed assets. These systems or platforms typically have functional modules such as asset management, asset inventory, asset depreciation, and asset reporting, which can help universities achieve full lifecycle management of fixed assets. At the same time, the system platform can also track the dynamic changes of fixed assets in real time, including key information such as asset location, status, and user, greatly improving the efficiency and accuracy of fixed asset management. Through real-time data analysis capabilities, universities can better understand key information such as the distribution, usage, and existing problems of fixed assets, providing strong support for management and decision-making.

5. Summary

Under the new financial accounting system, the management of fixed assets in universities

faces many challenges and opportunities. The implementation of measures such as strengthening the construction of fixed asset management system, improving the consistency between fixed asset accounts and reality, improving the efficiency of fixed asset utilization, standardizing the depreciation and amortization treatment of fixed assets, strengthening the integration of infrastructure projects into the big account accounting, and introducing information management methods can effectively improve the efficiency and quality of fixed asset management in universities and promote their stable development. In the future, with the continuous development of education and the expansion of university scale, fixed asset management in universities will face more challenges and opportunities. Therefore, universities should continuously innovate management concepts and methods, improve management systems and processes, enhance management efficiency and quality, and provide strong guarantees for the sustainable development of universities.

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