

Discussion on the Challenge of University Budget Management under the Epidemic Situation

Yuexu Zhang

Chongqing University of Arts and Sciences, Yongchuan, Chongqing, 402160, China.

Abstract: Under the situation of normalization of the COVID-19, the budget management of colleges and universities is facing great challenges. It is necessary to improve the scientificity and preciseness of budget management. According to the changes in epidemic prevention and control policies, colleges and universities should reasonably prepare epidemic prevention budget funds, fully demonstrate various business budget items, efficiently implement the budget, attach importance to implementation supervision, strengthen assessment and evaluation, deepen the application of results, and comprehensively promote the integration of budget performance management while meeting the needs of epidemic prevention and control.

Keywords: Epidemic; Budget Management; Challenges

1. The Current Situation of Budget Management in Colleges and Universities under the Epidemic Situation

Under the new situation of epidemic normalization, colleges and universities all over the country actively carry out online teaching and scientific research while preventing epidemics. The Finance Department also calmly responded to the epidemic, made efforts to provide “zero contact” management services, carried out “online office” and “remote finance”, and explored the transformation of financial management mode. Against the background of the epidemic, the budget situation of colleges and universities has changed dramatically. Budget revenue is often reduced due to restrictions of all parties; the progress of budget expenditure is slow, and even some projects are canceled directly. At the same time, colleges and universities must effectively block the spread of viruses and prevent the spread of epidemics, which cannot be separated from the support of budget funds.

2. Challenges to the Budget Management of Colleges and Universities under the Epidemic Situation

2.1 Inaccurate budgeting

The budget revenue of colleges and universities usually includes the revenue from financial allocation, student tuition and accommodation, non academic education and training fees, and social cooperation income. However, due to the impact of the COVID-19, the financial allocation of colleges and universities has been tightened, and the income of students may also be reduced due to the suspension of school, and the training income may be reduced due to the limited cooperation with all sectors of society. Due to various uncertain factors, it is difficult to grasp the accuracy of budget revenue preparation. Under the normalization of epidemic prevention and control, when preparing the budget expenditure, various departments in colleges and universities failed to fully demonstrate some budget items due to inaccurate plans and unclear preparation basis standards, which may lead to too much or too little budget preparation, which is difficult to match the scientific budget management under epidemic prevention and control.

2.2 Difficulties in budget implementation

In terms of budget implementation, colleges and universities usually arrange expenditure on student teaching, discipline construction, scientific research, social training, international exchange and cooperation, faculty building, infrastructure and logistics. However, due to the impact of the COVID-19, the mobility of various places has been greatly reduced, resulting in a great impact on students' going out for study and internship, faculty travel and inspection training, international exchanges and cooperation, school

maintenance infrastructure and other aspects. The implementation of some budgets was slow, and even some projects were directly cancelled. In the implementation of the special epidemic prevention budget, if the epidemic continues to worsen, the budget implementation difficulties will exceed the standard; If the epidemic situation gradually subsides, it may lead to idle and waste of prevention and control funds.

3. Countermeasures to the Challenges of Budget Management in Colleges and Universities under the Epidemic Situation

3.1 Strengthen budget preparation adjustment and improve budget allocation level

Budgeting should reflect business development comprehensively, objectively, truthfully and accurately. The budget preparation department of colleges and universities should scientifically and reasonably arrange the budget scale according to the medium and long-term development strategy, annual goals and key work arrangements of colleges and universities to avoid deficit budget. They should broaden income channels, innovate income increasing models, and increase income through online training, online industry university research cooperation, etc. In view of the increase of emergencies under the epidemic situation, the financial budget should be tracked in a timely manner, assessed reasonably, and adjusted in a timely manner. Necessary funds shall be provided for budget items increased due to epidemic situation, especially special prevention and control projects; For the budget items cancelled due to the epidemic situation, it is necessary to analyze the reasons, adjust the project budget in a timely manner, and transfer the budget to other projects that need to support the development of higher education and scientific research.

3.2 Accelerate the progress of budget implementation and scientifically supervise the process

According to the characteristics of the epidemic, such as sudden, repeated, long incubation period and high infection, and in combination with the actual needs, the budget funds are dynamically adjusted to ensure that the budget implementation meets the normal development of school teaching and scientific research under the normalization of epidemic prevention and control. For projects affected by the epidemic with slow budget expenditure progress, we should strengthen fund monitoring, urge them to implement as soon as possible, and strengthen budget implementation supervision. Colleges and universities can regularly organize experts inside and outside the university to evaluate the budget implementation process, territorial prevention and control policies, etc. through the budget management committee or regular project promotion meetings, and strengthen the supervision and guidance of various budget funds. If the budget funds do not match the actual needs, take appropriate measures to adjust, and ensure the realization of the goal of "zero epidemic" on campus while promoting the effective implementation of the budget.

4. Conclusion

Under the situation of repeated epidemic, the University Finance Department should actively explore how to use big data, informatization, artificial intelligence and other technical means to conduct daily financial work, strengthen financial management supervision, improve resource allocation efficiency and performance management level, and start the application and promotion of management accounting and smart finance under the condition of "zero contact". The budget of colleges and universities must increase income and reduce expenditure because of the huge impact of the education industry in the post epidemic era. Colleges and universities should scientifically and calmly deal with such challenges as unbalanced budget preparation, difficulties in budget project implementation, and insufficient implementation of performance management. They should strengthen budget preparation and adjustment, and improve the level of budget allocation; accelerate the progress of budget implementation and conduct scientific project supervision; strengthen budget performance and Vigorously promote the integration of budget performance management.

References:

- [1] Liang Yong, Gan Shengdao. Reflections on online financial management of colleges and universities under epidemic prevention and control [J]. Friends of Accounting, 2020(6): 123-127.
- [2] Yi Jinwei. Research on University Financial Management under Normalization of Epidemic Prevention and Control [J]. Contemporary Economy, 2022(1): 84-88