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Analysis and Countermeasures of the Current Situation of Government Procurement in Colleges and Universities under the New Situation

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Abstract: The implementation of the Government Procurement Law of the People's Republic of China in universities is not only a requirement for regulating the procurement behavior of higher education institutions, but also a need for the development of universities themselves. Due to various factors, there are many problems in the implementation process of government procurement in current higher education institutions. Analyze the current problems in government procurement in universities and provide some specific suggestions and measures for reference.

Keywords: Universities Government procurement; Present situation; Countermeasure

1. Analysis of the Current Situation of Government Procurement in Higher Education Institutions

1.1 Diversified funding channels

With the continuous deepening of the higher education system and the expansion of enrollment scale, the government's funding investment in higher education is increasing. The funding source of universities has also developed from a single collection of tuition fees to a multi-channel approach that mainly relies on financial subsidies to collect tuition fees as a supplement and strive for various sources of income. There are certain differences between the single source of funds and the unified management method of national government agencies. Due to its diversified sources of funds and multi-level nature of funds, the management and process of government procurement work in universities are different from those of national government agencies. In addition, there are many entities involved in university procurement, and school agencies, colleges, departments, and affiliated institutions all have certain rights to use funds. If university procurement is simply included in government procurement, it will inevitably require universities to provide accurate and detailed procurement budgets at least six months in advance. Therefore, it is difficult to achieve a high degree of planning in government procurement and develop a comprehensive procurement budget.

1.2 Diversified procurement standards

The internal organizational structure of universities is complex, with both teaching and research institutions, as well as administrative departments serving teaching and research. Some universities also have branch campuses, secondary independent colleges, or affiliated units. Universities need to purchase both general equipment for teaching and office needs, as well as specialized equipment for research needs, presenting characteristics such as multiple types of procurement, multiple batches, small batches, and diversified procurement standards.

1.3 The accuracy of procurement budget preparation is low

With the continuous improvement of departmental budgets and government procurement systems in universities, the allocation of new assets for government procurement in universities has been required to be included in their budgets. However, due to the diversification of funding sources in universities, inconsistent timing of funding, and the complexity of internal institutions, it is difficult for universities to accurately prepare government procurement budgets, which affects the execution and management of government procurement budgets in universities. For example, a certain university allocated 21.3 million yuan for government procurement in its 2020 budget, but the asset allocation amount in the final accounts reached 37.55 million yuan. The difference between the budget and final accounts reached 16.25 million yuan.

1.4 Lack of sound procurement management system in universities

At present, China has successively issued a series of laws, regulations, and institutional policy documents related to government procurement, but there is still no relevant university government procurement rules and regulations tailored to the characteristics of universities themselves. Each university adopts different policies based on their affiliation.

The procurement methods of the government are also different, resulting in various problems during the procurement execution process. Even if some internal control systems are established, in practical work, setting up systems is often one thing, while implementing systems is another, lacking effective supervision throughout the entire process from project initiation, planned amount, contract signing, acceptance, and payment. At the same time, there is a lack of relevant supporting implementation rules.

1.5 The government procurement process has a long cycle and weak timeliness

Government procurement methods generally include open bidding, invitation to bid, competitive negotiation, single source procurement, inquiry, and other procurement methods recognized by management departments. The standardization of procurement is a prerequisite for government procurement. Regardless of the procurement method adopted, there are legal procedures and certain time requirements. The long procurement process cycle leads to a relative decrease in procurement timeliness, which cannot meet the procurement needs of university teaching experiments, especially in scientific research projects. Resulting in inadequate implementation of government procurement in universities, and even some universities not adopting government procurement methods for equipment and service procurement.

2. Suggestions for Improving Government Procurement Management in Higher Education Institutions

2.1 Establish a sound and standardized government procurement system for universities

Universities should formulate government procurement regulations and rules that are suitable for universities based on the relevant regulations and rules of government procurement in the country, combined with the characteristics of universities themselves and the actual situation of university procurement. Only by institutionalizing government procurement in universities can the government procurement work in universities be improved.

To truly improve the efficiency of government procurement in universities under the principles of openness, fairness, and impartiality. One is that the government procurement system for universities should clearly stipulate that universities should establish reasonable government procurement agencies based on national and provincial government procurement agencies. The main function is to synchronize the government procurement work of universities with national and provincial departments, and actively and effectively implement various policies from higher authorities. Secondly, the government procurement system in universities should clearly define and standardize the procurement procedures. Universities should develop specific procurement processes based on their own characteristics. The diversification of funding sources for universities determines the diversification of their procurement forms. In the system, requirements such as open bidding, invitation bidding, competitive negotiation, single source procurement, inquiry, and other procurement methods recognized by management departments should be clearly defined, including corresponding amount standards and characteristics suitable for procurement targets. Standardization and timeliness should be effectively combined to reflect the advantages of government procurement.

2.2 Improve the budget preparation for government procurement

The government procurement budget of universities is an important organizational part of the budget of university departments, and the quality of budget preparation by university departments is the first step towards the smooth progress of government procurement work. Only by improving the preparation of government procurement budgets, enhancing the scientific, comprehensive, and detailed nature of government procurement budget preparation, strengthening the preliminary demonstration of government procurement, enhancing the rationality and preparedness of government procurement, and improving the quality of government procurement work.

2.3 Establish a convenient and effective information system for university procurement

Based on the characteristics of government procurement in universities, which are different from those of government agencies, in order to fully leverage the advantages of government procurement, universities should establish a complete government procurement information management system to manage the entire process of procurement application approval and execution. Optimize the government procurement process, streamline procurement approval procedures, shorten procurement cycles, and effectively improve the standardization and timeliness of government procurement in universities.

2.4 Combining performance evaluation to improve government procurement management in universities

Applying performance evaluation to government procurement management is an inevitable development trend, and government procurement performance is a comprehensive and holistic evaluation of government procurement efficiency. Including the preliminary demonstration of government procurement, performance evaluation of the government procurement process and results. At present, there is a lack of sufficient demonstration work in the early stage of procurement in universities, which means that the purchased items may not necessarily be the necessary ones, wasting national financial funds. Performance evaluation of preliminary arguments can enhance the rationality and accuracy of government procurement, and reduce waste. The performance evaluation of the government procurement process is conducive to strength-

ening the standardization of government procurement behavior and avoiding the procurement department from taking improper measures for their own interests. Lost the true goal of government procurement. The performance evaluation of government procurement results is conducive to analyzing the shortcomings of each government procurement behavior and proposing improvement measures, so as to continuously improve the government procurement work, enhance the level of government procurement management, and truly achieve the principle of openness, fairness, and justice in university government procurement. It enhances the standardization of government procurement behavior, improves the efficiency of the use of government procurement funds, and forms a sound university government procurement system.

3. Conclusion

With the continuous expansion of the scale and investment of universities, implementing government procurement in universities is becoming increasingly important. The implementation of government procurement in universities is not only a necessity for social development, but also an important measure to promote the construction of clean governance in schools. The implementation of the University Government Procurement Law not only saves a lot of funds and improves the efficiency of fund utilization, but also ensures the openness, fairness, and impartiality of university equipment procurement. By continuously summarizing experience and improving the rules and procedures of university procurement, the efficiency of university procurement work can be improved, thereby better serving teaching and research.

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