

*Tikhomirov S.A., candidate of Cultural Studies, Associate Professor, Vice-Rector for Research, Associate Professor of the Department of Art History of the «Higher school of folk arts (academy)», 191186, Saint-Petersburg, Griboyedov canal embankment, 2, lit. A, e-mail: nauka\_vshni@mail.ru*

### **What is the status of the university museum?**

#### **Joint meeting of the Interdepartmental Working Group on improving the legal status of museums, which are scientific organizations and structural units of scientific organizations and educational organizations of higher education and the Association of Leading Universities**

**Abstract.** Information review of the results of the Interdepartmental Working Group joint meeting on improving the legal status of museums that are scientific organizations and structural divisions of scientific organizations and educational organizations of higher education and the Association of Leading Universities which took place on June 13, 2024.

**Keywords:** museum, legal status of museum, museum fund, museum collection, university

On June 13, 2024 a joint meeting of the Interdepartmental Working Group on improving the legal status of museums which are scientific organizations and structural divisions of scientific organizations and educational organizations of higher education and the Association of Leading Universities took place in the format of a video conference.

The participants continued to jointly comprehend the questions: what exactly is the university museum? How is their status regulated by law? The order of creation and operation: How to ensure the most effective scientific educational and educational activities of the relevant structural units of universities according to the requirements of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation?

The meeting was opened by K.I. Mogilevsky who is the Chairman of the working group and Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation and E.G. Chernova who is the First Vice-Rector of St. Petersburg State University.

As part of the discussion of the issue "On the results of methodological seminars on the organization of museums, of educational institutions of higher education and scientific organizations" the speakers noted that in 2024 four training seminars for museum staff in organizations subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia were held in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Makhachkala, Irkutsk.

The seminars brought together nearly 400 participants including speakers from all the federal districts of Russia and significantly enhanced the theoretical and practical training of museum professionals in the fields of conservation inventory scientific description and state registration of collections.

During the meeting the problems faced by university museums were recorded, systematized and put forward for joint discussion. Thus, the list of normative documents that universities coordinate with the founders was discussed as well as the procedure for certifying receipt books, inventory books, special accounting books collection, (subject-specific) inventories. On the one hand it is necessary to ensure the safety of collections. On the other hand, it creates the problem of delivering large arrays of documents and causes additional financial costs for universities.

It was noted that many universities have extensive collections and support museum activities but the attendance of such museums is significantly lower due to the fact that a special visiting regime a preliminary system of recording and visiting museums operates on the territory of any university complex.

The participants discussed the improvement of the legal status of museums at universities in the "open microphone" mode. In particular, it was proposed to develop a standard regulation on the museum a standard staffing table as well as mandatory items on museum activities in the charter of universities which facilitates the entry of data on museum objects into the state catalog of KAMIS.

In addition, participants from the university community shared successful business practices. For example, the classification of museum objects adopted at St. Petersburg State University was recognized as collections of museum significance; objects of potential museum significance; educational collections which are often on the balance of departments and objects that are used in the educational process (during educational practices experimental research).

Regular meetings of the Interdepartmental Working Group and the Association of Leading Universities were recognized as one of the key elements of the system of interaction between universities and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation; participants of the meeting will prepare and send written proposals to the founder of the meeting.