
Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences



FTA Scientific Board
Meeting Report
21st of April 2023

The meeting of the FTA Scientific Board took place on April 21, 2023

Chairman: prof. dr.ir. Patrick Van Damme

Members:

Present: doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D.
Ing. Kateřina Černý Pixová, Ph.D.
prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.
prof. Ing. Ladislav Kokoška, Ph.D.
prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D.
prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.
prof. PhDr. Michal Lošťák, Ph.D.
doc. Ing. Vilém Jarský, Ph.D.
prof. RNDr. Irena Valterová, CSc.

Apologies: doc. Miroslava Bavorová
prof. Dr. Ing. Eloy Fernández Cusimamani
prof. Dr. Ing. František Kumhála
prof. Mgr. Ing. Markéta Sedmíková, Ph.D.

External members:

Present: prof. RNDr. Daniel Frynta, Ph.D.
doc. Ing. Jan Chyský, CSc.
doc. RNDr. Josef Novotný, Ph.D.
prof. RNDr. Dr. Oldřich Lapčík
doc. Mgr. Zdeněk Opršal, CSc.
doc. RNDr. Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová, Ph.D.

Apologies: prof. RNDr. Vojtěch Novotný, CSc.

Guests: Ing. Radim Kotrba, Ph.D. (online)
doc. Ing. Karolína Brandlová, Ph.D.

Secretary: Mgr. Martina Gregorová

Minute taker: Ing. Barbora Motýlová

FTA Scientific Board 21. 04. 2023 programme:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Information from the previous FTA Scientific Board meeting
3. FTA Annual Report 2022
4. Approval of the habilitation committee of RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D.
5. Approval of committees for Bachelor and Master state examination and defences
6. Approval of the accreditation of Master study programme Wildlife and Livestock Production, Management and Conservation (WLPMC)
7. Reaccreditation of study programme Tropical Forestry and Agroforestry to Multiple degree form “Global forestry“
8. Approval of new supervisor for doctoral study programme
9. Miscellaneous

1) Opening of the Meeting

Prof. dr. ir Patrick Van Damme, the Chairman greeted everyone and opened the Scientific Board meeting.

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2) Information from the previous FTA Scientific Board meeting

Prof. dr. ir. Patrick Van Damme, the Chairman, briefly informed the audience about the content of the last FTA Scientific Board meeting (4th of November 2022). He talked about targets that were mostly met, and he mentioned approval of the new Tropical Agroecology MSc programme and professorship procedure of doc. Mgr. Jan Šobotník, Ph.D.

3) FTA Annual Report 2022 and Strategic Action Plan 2023

Prof. dr. ir. Patrick Van Damme presented Strategic Action Plan 2023 – Self-assessment Report & Strategic Action Plan 2023. Presentation was divided into Strategic Areas (SA). SA1 is focused on high-quality and competent graduates, pedagogical competencies of teachers, quality assurance, reflection of the requirements of the labour market, and international dimension of education. Topics like updating the curricula, accreditation of double (multiple) degree (Tropical Farming System), full online study programme, and numbers of ingoing and outgoing students and academics were mentioned. The aim of SA2 aim is to expand flexible forms of education for students, to have an appropriate and accessible form of educational activities, and to support lifelong learning. The objectives of

SA3 are to be attractive to high-quality applicants and motivate students to complete their studies on time and continue their independent scientific career. Percentage of academic staff having adequate publication activity was discussed. SA4 focuses on excellent science and popularization of FTA R&D activities and outputs. SA5 aims to improve strategic management in FTA through regular monitoring and evaluation of its activities. The topic of SA6 is sustainability.

After presenting FTA's annual report and strategic plan, there was a discussion. One topic was how to increase the number of professors and how to finance them. It was also discussed that every department should have some long-term plan related to academic staff. It was also considered how new professors should be chosen – if there are some candidates, should be preferred those, who are in the field of study which the faculty is currently interested in, or should possible future developments guide the choice?

Another topic of discussion was whether it is good to push academic staff into publishing at least 1 paper per year. It was mentioned that it would maybe be better to have 1 excellent article per two years than 1 lower quality article every year. The problem of salami publication was also mentioned. Another opinion was that at least 1 article per year should be a minimum.

It was also discussed how to deal with targets that were not met and that maybe some staff meeting would be good.

Doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D. mentioned, that in case of Ph.D. students, it would be good to keep track of them, and have some data about their future and success after finishing studies.

4) Approval of the habilitation committee of RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D.

Proposed members were prof. RNDr. Jan Kopecký, CSc., prof. MVDr. David Modrý, Ph.D., doc. RNDr. Jan Votýpka, Ph.D., doc. RNDr. Ivo Rudolf, Ph.D., and prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejčmanová, Ph.D. as chairman.

Result: 16 members in favour, 0 members against, 0 abstentions.

5) Approval of committees for Bachelor and Master state examination and defences

Committees for Bachelor and Master state examinations and defences were proposed.

Result: 16 members in favour, 0 members against, 0 abstentions.

6) Approval of the accreditation of Master study programme Wildlife and Livestock Production, Management and Conservation (WLPMC)

Doc. Ing. Karolína Brandlová, Ph.D. had a short presentation about WLPMC programme. The previous programme had just some small changes, therefore, it is more or less just reaccreditation.

There was a brief discussion where prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D. asked for the reasons for changes in curricula in the programme. Doc. Ing. Karolína Brandlová, Ph.D. answered that the content was a little bit restructured also in order to reflect a higher interest of applicants in wildlife conservation than in sustainable animal production.

Doc. Ing. Karolína Brandlová, Ph.D. also mentioned that there is a mistake in websites – where the Czech and the English versions differ in fees (6 000,- and 40 000,- Czk) – this should be corrected.

Result: 16 members in favour, 0 members against, 0 abstentions.

7) Reaccreditation of study programme Tropical Forestry and Agroforestry to Multiple degree form “Global Forestry “

Prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D. had a presentation about the new 2-year MSc multiple degree programme. It is the cooperation of 5 universities. All students start in Copenhagen. The second semester, they choose Dresden or Padova and second year, they choose according to their specialization among all of those 5 universities. The specialization of our faculty is Tropical Forestry and Agroforestry so they will study an already accredited programme. Students obtain two or three national degrees together, so it may be attractive.

Short discussion about Czech/English versions of titles and financing of studies. In discussion participated prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D., doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D., doc. Mgr. Zdeněk Opršal, CSc., prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.

Result: 16 members in favour, 0 members against, 0 abstentions.

Note: prof. PhDr. Michal Lošřák, Ph.D. left the meeting at 11:45, so starting from there then the voting was happening among 15 members instead of 16.

8) Approval of new supervisor for doctoral study programme

Ing. Radim Kotrba, Ph.D. was proposed as the new supervisor. He joined the meeting via teams online and presented himself. He mentioned that he is a member of the Animal Physiology and Behaviour Research group and mostly works with doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D., and doc. Tersia Needham, Ph.D. which are his main collaborators. He was already co-supervising 3 students and his main research interests are antelopes, deers, llama guanacos, sustainable way of animal husbandry and silvopastoral systems.
Result: 14 members in favour, 0 members against, 1 abstention.

9) Miscellaneous

Dr. Nils Haneklaus and doc. Ing. Tereza Němečková Ph.D. were proposed as new members of committee for doctoral state exams of ATS and SRD programmes.
Result: 15 members in favour, 0 members against, 0 abstentions.

Conclusion

Prof. dr.ir. Patrick Van Damme summarised the meeting and asked for the last final voting statement - if everyone agrees with the results of all previous voting and summarization.

Prof. dr.ir. Patrick Van Damme concluded that

- habilitation committee of RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D. was approved
- committees for Bachelor and Master state examinations and defences were approved
- accreditation of Master study programme Wildlife and Livestock Production, Management and Conservation (WLPMC) was approved
- reaccreditation of study programme Tropical Forestry and Agroforestry to Multiple degree form "Global Forestry " was approved
- new supervisor for the doctoral study programme Ing. Radim Kotrba, Ph.D. was approved
- two new members of committee for doctoral study programmes were approved

Result: 15 members in favour, 0 members against, 0 abstentions.

Prof. dr.ir. Patrick Van Damme thanked all for participation, mentioned that the next meeting of scientific board will be in October – exact date to be doodle-defined - and wished everyone a nice summer and vacation.

prof. dr. ir. Patrick Van Damme
The Chairman of FTA, CZU Prague Scientific Board