

# Tropical Agrobiological and Bioresource Management (TABM) Doctoral Degree Board Meeting Report

28. 11. 2023

The TABM Doctoral Degree Board meeting took place on 28 November 2023 at 1:00 p.m. in room 313 FTA building. The following members of the Board were present.

Present members (12):

- prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.
- prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D.
- RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D.
- doc. Ing. Jaroslav Havlík, Ph.D.
- doc. Ing. Pavel Klouček, Ph.D.
- Ing. Martin Kulma, Ph.D.
- Ing. Olga Leuner, Ph.D.
- prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.
- doc. Tersia Needham, Ph.D.
- prof. Mgr. Ing. Markéta Sedmíková, Ph.D.
- prof. RNDr. Irena Valterová, CSc.
- doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D. (online)

Apologies (2):

- doc. RNDr. David Honys, Ph.D.
- prof. Lukáš Kratochvíl, Ph.D.

Secretary: Ing. Vendula Ludvíková, Ph.D.

Minute taker: Ing. Barbora Motýlová

## Agenda:

1. Opening (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.)
2. Information from the last Doctoral Degree Board meeting
3. Reports from attestations of PhD students from September 2023 (heads of individual departments)
4. Approval of new topics for Doctoral dissertation thesis
5. Approval of Individual Study Plans of new PhD students
6. Approval of new PhD thesis guidelines
7. Miscellaneous

### 1. Opening

The chairperson prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D., opened the TABM Doctoral Degree Board meeting by greeting all members.

### 2. Information from the last Doctoral Degree Board meeting

Prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D. reminded of information from the previous Doctoral Degree board (24 March 2023) which mainly discussed low publication activity and success of students after finishing their studies.

### 3. Reports from attestations of PhD students (Heads of departments)

Prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D., Department of Crop Sciences and Agroforestry:

Attestations took place on 27 September 2023 and concerned 24 students. 12 students had no problem, 7 passed with admonition, and 5 students were recommended to interrupt (not fulfilling criteria and sometimes not even communicating). 4 students are interrupted.

There was a short discussion concerning first-year students having problems with conference contributions, as they do not have any data yet. It was discussed that it does not have to be a big conference, but also some scientific meeting is enough and that they can present also something just conceptual.

In the discussion participated: prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D., prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D., prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.

Doc. Tersia Needham, Ph.D., Department of Animal Science and Food Processing:

The attestations took place 27 September, 2023 and concerned 25 students. 15 students continue without any problem, 5 continue with the admonition, 8 students are somehow interrupted and 2 terminated.

The problem is mostly with publications.

prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D., Department of Sustainable Technologies:

Attestations took place on 26 September, 2023 and concerned 1 student – Tereza Beránková. She is currently in Japan, she is publishing more than expected and her study plan is fulfilled. She continues in her studies. And one more student – Jan Staš is currently interrupted.

#### 4. Approval of new topics for Doctoral dissertation thesis

Proposed topic: Indigenous tropical medicinal plants and their biological activity.

Prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D. introduced the topic, and also supervisor/ promotor Ing. Johana Rondevaldová, Ph.D.

This topic should also be possible for the ATS programme.

Result: New topic of Ing. Johana Rondevaldová, Ph.D. "Indigenous tropical medicinal plants and their biological activity" was **approved by DDB**.

#### 5. Approval of Individual Study Plans of new PhD students

Before approving ISP Pavla mentioned some problems like that list of courses should be updated. Some courses doesn't exist anymore. Methodology was also mentioned; some students have it in the winter semester, but they need to have it in February, so it should be in the summer semester. Also was mentioned that the list of courses should be mentioned somewhere which semester it is taught.

**Asghar Muhammad Sohaib**: DDB suggests to change the methodology and abstract. Not approved.

**Kateřina Berková** – Methodology is not recommended in the winter semester and dates of state exam and defence should be different. ISP approved after minor changes.

**Běla Bonušová** - ISP approved

**Ema Cetkovská** – ISP approved

**Girma Mekuria Lagiso** – ISP approved (but names of examiners should be removed)

**Thoniso Chitambala** – DDB suggests changing the assignment part. Not approved.

**Matviienko Anasasiia** – The supervisor is not approved by the head of the department and the assignment is missing. The head of the department approved the topic for a different supervisor, later



they switched the supervisor without the approval of the head of the department. Also, the excel file was not sent and in the ISP are still missing 3 credits. Not approved.

**Kristýna Stehlíková** – Mistake in the name of the topic. ISP will be approved after correction.

**Venkatesh Kural Arasu** – The student wanted to take more courses in PEF, but the system did not allow it. Title and abstract and state exam courses are missing. Not approved.

**Villegas Jhonnell** – Student wants to move from part-time to full-time. But there might be a problem, that there is no budget for him. And probably he will have to go through the entrance process again. Also in ISP is the wrong course. Instead of “conference contribution WoS/SCOPUS”, should be “Conference contribution (other)”. The topic should be rewritten and state exam courses chosen. Not approved.

**Obonym Allan Tekkara** – ISP not submitted

**Matthew Ward** - is still not enrolled, due to some problem with the documents needed for arriving in the Czech Republic. It is not up to our faculty, but up to the rectorate. His case will be discussed with the rectorate later. Not approved.

ISP updating should be completed in two weeks (till 22. 12.), later will be approved per rollam

## 6. Approval of new PhD Thesis guidelines

Prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D introduced new Ph.D. thesis guidelines. A guideline would also allow another form of dissertation thesis. Still, it could be a monography or three articles.

This was followed by a discussion. In the discussion participated: prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D., prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D., RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D. doc. Ing. Jaroslav Havlík, Ph.D. doc. Ing. Pavel Klouček, Ph.D., Ing. Martin Kulma, Ph.D., Ing. Olga Leuner, Ph.D., prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D., prof. Mgr. Ing. Markéta Sedmíková, Ph.D., prof. RNDr. Irena Valterová, CSc., doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D.

There was a debate over whether certain guidelines should be treated as strict rules or more flexible recommendations for formatting the thesis. It was answered, that this should be only a guideline, not a directive.

Later, it was discussed whether the dissertation thesis will be a collection of papers, if it should be in a PDF format which is similar to the article that was published. If the reviewer recommends some changes in the thesis, the PDF articles cannot be changed.

Discussions involved legal aspects, such as whether altering an article after its publication in a scientific journal is permissible. Before this was already discussed with the university lawyer and it seems that it is possible, but if changes are made, proper citation and acknowledgment are necessary. It was also mentioned that the author is the owner of the article, so it is the author's property.

Also was mentioned that it may happen that some journals might have restrictions on republishing articles or using them in a modified form within a thesis. It was highlighted that while some journals permit inclusion in a thesis, others might not allow any modifications from the published PDF.

It was discussed if the opponent should have the opportunity to offer suggestions for changes to an already published paper included in the thesis. Opponent is very limited if he can only comment on specific parts like the introduction and conclusion.

The discussion covered the use of ISBNs in some universities for theses and the associated requirement of providing 10 copies to the library. The decision to use an ISBN and the format of the thesis might be at the discretion of the author and their supervisor, not mandatory. Speaking about price, 10 copies of the new potential format cost the same as 3 of our previous format of dissertation thesis.

Later was mentioned that it should be clear which part of the manuscript is mandatory. Some parts should be regular and mandatory for all. And it should be mentioned in this guideline. Some things should be strictly given – font, letter size, and a minimum number of pages. There should be some official checklist, so no one can choose only those things which he wants. If the format is not the same, do not accept it.

Differing opinions existed regarding the separation or combination of the results and discussion sections within the thesis. Some preferred them together, while others advocated for separate sections.

Overall, while there seemed to be general agreement on certain aspects such as format, template, and the potential use of ISBNs, additional elements need incorporation. There was a suggestion to gather more feedback and then proceed with a second round of comments or revisions.

Conclusion: It will be rewritten and re-evaluated.

## 7. Miscellaneous

Jiří Černý presented briefly data related to related to TABM analysis of finished students. It is needed to dedicate more work as some data are not fully actual and accurate.

It was also discussed that the courses for PhD students should be updated. It is a task for subject guarantors in cooperation with Petra Kejšová (faculty information system administrator).

## Conclusion

The chairperson prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D. thanked to all the present members and closed the meeting of the Doctoral Degree Board.

In Prague, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.

Chairperson of DDB TABM

