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**Tropical Agrobiology and Bioresource Management Doctoral Degree Board Meeting Report**

# **15. 3. 2024**

Meeting of the TABM Doctoral Degree Board took place on 15th March 2024

The following members of the Board were present.

**Present members: prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.**

prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D.

RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Jaroslav Havlík, Ph.D.

Ing. Martin Kulma, Ph.D.

Ing. Olga Leuner, Ph.D.

prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.

doc. Tersia Needham, Ph.D.

**Guests:**  doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.

Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D.

**Apologies:** doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D.

doc. RNDr. David Honys, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Pavel Klouček, Ph.D.

prof. Lukáš Kratochvíl, Ph.D.

prof. Mgr. Ing. Markéta Sedmíková, Ph.D.

prof. RNDr. Irena Valterová, CSc.

**Secretary:** Ing. Vendula Ludvíková, Ph.D.

**Minute taker:** Ing. Barbora Motýlová

**Programme of TABM and ATS Doctoral Degree Board 15. 3. 2024**

1. Opening (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.)
2. Reports from the attestations of PhD students from September 2023 (heads of individual departments)
3. Approval of research proposals of the PhD 1st year students
4. Miscellaneous:
5. Approving of changes of state exam courses of Okao Moses
6. Approval of new TABM and ATS DDB members – Jiban Kumar, Zbyněk Polesný, Iva Viehmannová, Hynek Roubík
7. Approval of RNDr. Irena Schneiderová, Ph.D. as a new external supervisor
8. Approval of ISP of Anastassia Matviienko
9. **Opening**

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

Also, she congratulated doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D. for being new vice dean for Science, Research and Doctoral Study.

Doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D. greeted everyone and informed the doctoral degree board about new PhD guidelines. Also, he mentioned that in April it is planned a meeting for PhD supervisors focused on common problems, administrative issues, ISPs, submitting thesis, etc.

The Chairwoman prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D. summarized the last meeting - approving of ISPs and discussing new guidelines for PhD thesis.

She also mentioned the new directive of the dean and asked members to read it.

Also, she asked members to check emails regularly and properly, so they would not miss any online voting, as previous per-rollam voting (September 2023) was problematic due low amount of voting members.

1. **Reports from the attestations of Ph.D. students from September 2023 (heads of individual departments)**

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

Attestations attended 26 students, 9 students had their first attestation (most of them passed, one passed with criticism). 9 students are interrupted because of various reasons and 1 terminated because of personal reasons.

**prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D., Department of Crop Science and Agroforestry:**

18 students who are not interrupted attended the attestations in February. 10 students passed with no problem, 6 passed with criticism and 2 were recommended to terminate.

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

Attestation considered one student – Tereza Baránková, from KUT dep, but on the TABM program. She is in Japan, fulfilling the plan, and soon she is planning to finish.

**Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D., Department of Economics and Development:**

One student is having a problem with a publication; therefore it seems she will have to interrupt.

1. **Approval of research proposals of Ph.D. students of the 1st year**

Out of 12 students, only 10 research proposal were sent to the reviewer and only 6 are done and sent to PhD and Research.

**Berková Kateřina:** approved.

**Bonušová Běla:** The supervisor still didn't get the upgraded version – not approved.

**Cetkovská Ema:** minor comments, there should be a specified area – approved.

**Chitambala Thoniso:** approved.

**Lagiso Girma Merkuria:** approved.

**Mouadna Ayyoub:** commented, but no upgraded version – not approved.

**Stehlíková Kristýna:** approved

**Tekkara Obonym Allan:** not approved (reviewer mistake – delayed approval)

**Venkatesh Kural Arasu:** not approved (reviewer mistake- delayed approval)

**Villegas Jhonnel:** approved

Approval of research proposal of the 2nd year student:

**Melese Mereva:** Approved

**The new deadline for submitting final versions of proposals is 28.3. 2024**

1. **Miscellaneous:**
2. **Approving of changes of state exam courses of Okao Moses**

* **Approved**

1. **Approval of proposal of new TABM and ATS DDB members**

Prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D. introduced three new proposed DDB members from the Department of Crop Science and Agroforestry - doc. Ing. Zbyněk Polesný, Ph. D. and Ing. Iva Viehmannová, Ph. D. as potential internal members, and Ing. Jiban Kumar, Ph. D. as an external potential member. He mentioned that this could improve communication among the department and decrease the imbalance between crop-focused and plant-focused researchers in the doctoral degree board.

There was also another proposal of new DDB member – doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D. as a new vice-dean for science, research and doctoral study

* **The doctoral degree board approved all four candidates as TABM and ATS members and will propose them for approval to the scientific board.**

1. **Approval of RNDr. Irena Schneiderová, Ph.D. as a new external supervisor**

prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D. introduced RNDr. Irenu Schneiderovou, Ph.D.

* **Approved, will be recommended to the scientific board to be approved**

1. **Approval of ISP of Anastasia Matvienko**

The change of supervisor was not approved. Tersia is still the supervisor. ISP was not approved because of some changes.

* **Not approved. This should be discussed with the head of the department**

Additionally, it was discussed that it is expected for the PhD scholarship to be increased to 1.2 times the minimum wage as per government regulation. However, it is currently unclear how to redistribute the current budget, and the government has not clearly specified when this change will take effect. Therefore, it is necessary to discuss potential strategies at the faculty level to address this matter.

Also discussed was the admission procedure, where it was noted that sometimes required documents are missing (such as transcripts of records). It was suggested that additional documents, such as a motivation letter or recommendation letter from the candidate's previous university or employer, could be required. Additionally, the inclusion of percentiles or rankings from the candidate's previous educational institution or workplace was proposed to assess the candidate's performance. Furthermore, the possibility of restructuring the admission procedure into two rounds was deliberated. It was proposed that after a careful review of documents, only select candidates would be invited for a second round. Additionally, if e prospective supervisor lacks interest in the candidate, there is also no reason to introduce him/ her for an interview.

Also mentioned was the need for better communication across departments. This includes sharing minutes from DDB (which are also accessible online) via email. Additionally, faculty members should make a habit of regularly reviewing documents, particularly new supervisors, to stay well-informed. Furthermore, updating the website is necessary, as it currently lists non-existing courses, etc.

**Conclusion**

The chairwoman prof. Pavla Hejcmanová thanked all the present members and closed the meeting of the Doctoral Degree Board.

In Prague, 15th March 2024

prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.

Chairperson of DDB TABM