

OPINION

Provided by Prof. Vladimir Dimitrov
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Regarding the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the occupation of the academic position of "Professor" at the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in higher education area 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences, specialty "Organic Chemistry - Organic Synthesis".

In the competition for professorship, announced in the State Gazette, issue 52 of 2.07.2019 by the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (FHF-SU) for the needs of the Department of Organic Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rositsa Dimitrova Nikolova applies as the only candidate.

The set of documents, presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rositsa Nikolova, is in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRARB) and the Rules for its implementation, as well as the Rules for the conditions and the procedure for acquiring academic degrees and occupying academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and includes all the materials necessary to carry out the selection procedure.

General presentation of the activity

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Rositsa Nikolova participates in the competition with 16 publications in international journals, 2 publications in scientific conference proceedings, presented with full text and 4 study text books. Outside these works, the applicant's publication activity is as follows: 33 publications in international journals, 2 publications in Bulgarian journals, 4 in proceedings of scientific conferences and 5 study text books.

The publications submitted for participation in the competition are in the respective categories (as required by law), as follows: 6 pcs. in Q1 magazines; 7 pcs. in magazines Q2; 2 pcs. in magazines Q3 and 1 pcs. in Q4 magazine.

Assoc. Professor Nikolova presented a common list of noted citations of scientific publications, which included data for 119 citations. A list of citations entitled "List of noted citations of scientific publications (Scopus) for participation in the competition" is also presented, which includes 78 citations (numbered 79, but missing No. 42, which is why the number is reduced by 1). In the document "Recommendations for the criteria for acquiring academic degrees and occupying academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" for the professional fields 4.2 "Chemical Sciences" and 7.3 "Pharmacy", for the position "professor" not less than 80 quotations are required, without mentioning the kind of the publications. Therefore, it should be considered that the minimum criterion is implemented.

Documents for participation in 53 scientific events (conferences / congresses) are presented. Associate Professor Nikolova is the lead scientist of 3 projects and participates in 11 other projects funded by operational programs and other sources.

From the enclosed reference for the indicators under Art. 122 paragraph 2 is visible that Assoc. Prof. Nikolova has considerable teaching activity, which includes lectures, exercises and seminars, preparation of state examinations for bachelors and masters, as well as participation in exam committees. In this activity, 5 of the lecture courses are developed by the applicant. The total study employment over the last 4 years is in the range of 430 - 550 hours. Associate Professor Nikolova has led two PhD students (one defended and one finished the thesis with the right of defense) and 12 defended graduates. Associate Professor Nikolova is a co-author of 4 textbooks and teaching aids.

Scientific contributions

The scientific contributions of Assoc. Prof. Rositsa Nikolova are in the scientific field corresponding to the announced competition. Thematically, the works can be grouped, as the applicant has done, into two areas – scientific developments in organic synthesis (mainly new approaches for the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds are studied) and physicochemical and theoretical studies on the structure of organic compounds and materials. The results have been published in international journals and have found resonance with the international scientific community (reference: citations noted).

Assessment of personal contributions

The submitted scientific publications for participation in the competition cover synthetic topics, which have traditions in the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of Sofia University. In this field, Assoc. Prof. Nikolova has found her place with the implementation of some new approaches, as evidenced by publications in which she is a leading author. In other publications, co-authorship is inevitably shared within the interdisciplinary tasks of development. However, even in such publications, the individual contribution of the candidate can be recognized, taking into account the subject matter, approaches and expertise of the co-authors. Because of this, in my opinion, the contribution of Assoc. Prof. Nikolova to the experimental development, interpretation and publication of the results in the presented materials is beyond doubt.

Conclusion

The documents submitted by Assoc. Prof. Rositsa Dimitrova Nikolova for participation in the competition meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRARB), the Rules for the implementation of the ZRARB and the Rules for the Terms and Conditions for Occupation of the Academic Position "professor" at Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of Sofia University. Assoc. Nikolova participates in the competition with sufficient number of high quality publications, as well as with sufficient data for contributions to the educational process of Sofia University.

After acquaintance with the materials presented in the competition, I give my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" for the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rositsa Dimitrova Nikolova in the academic position "Professor" in the Department of Organic Chemistry and Pharmacognosy in the scientific specialty "Organic Chemistry - Organic Synthesis" in the professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences.

28.10.2019

Prof. DSc. Vladimir Dimitrov