

STATEMENT

By Prof. DSc. Rositsa Alexandrova Penkova – Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

Regarding the materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Boryana Tumanova, PhD, for participation in the competition for the academic position of “Professor” in the scientific field of higher education: 1. Pedgogy, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching..., specialty Physical education and sport – swimming, announced in the State Gazette, issue 54 dated 29.06.2021.

Assoc. Prof. Boryana Tumanova, PhD, is the only candidate in the competition for “Professor”, announced for the needs of the Department of Sports at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

1. By Order ПД 38-316 dated 09.07.2021 of the Rector of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski I have been appointed member of the scientific jury of the competition for the academic title of “Professor” in the field of higher education 1. Pedgogy, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching..., specialty Physical education and sport - swimming, announced in the State Gazette, issue 54 dated 29.06.2021. The sole candidate for participation in the announced competition who has submitted documents is Assoc. Prof. Boryana Georgieva Tumanova, PhD, lecturer in the Department of Sports at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski who is also the Director of the Department.

The set of materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Boryana Tumanova, PhD, is in compliance with the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University.

The candidate has presented a list of a total of 58 scientific papers, 21 of which are included with their summaries in the report on covering the minimum scientometric requirements.

The materials have been carefully systematized and presented for participating in the competition for occupying the academic position of “Professor”.

Assoc. Prof. Boryana Tumanova, PhD, is a lecturer in the Department of Sports at Sofia University and Director of the Department. The candidate has submitted the necessary information about her teaching duties. Three doctoral students have successfully defended their PhD theses under her supervision. She has registered 34 participations in scientific forums (25 in

Bulgaria and 9 abroad), as well as participation in and management of 8 research projects. She has also won numerous awards.

2. The candidate's preparedness of the for the position of "Professor" is confirmed by her serious professional and teaching commitment and her competent attitude to working with students, as well as by the developed and implemented curricula for students from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

Her research activity under national projects also attest to Assoc. Prof. Tumanova's professional capabilities in connection with the scientific and the professional fields of the competition.

The analysis of the presented scientific work and their established contributions in a research and applied respect allows me to assess the candidate's scientific and applied activities very highly.

The monograph "Swimming - counteracting the harmful effects of modern technologies", Sofia University Press St. Kliment Ohridski, ISBN 978-954-07-5261-7, 2021, is valuable for the pedagogy of physical education and sports. The author proves that at the current stage of development of modern technologies in the conditions of university education it is necessary to apply a new model of training for prevention and prophylaxis of the harmful consequences of technology which includes activities in the aquatic environment.

New educational forms are applied, which develop the trainees' abilities to participate in practical situations actively and successfully. This tendency determines the topicality of the issues interpreted in Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tumanova's monograph.

Based on a theoretical understanding of physical education as a means of counteracting problems caused by new technologies, the author substantiates the pedagogical factors that can positively affect students' acquisition of skills and competencies. Thus, in the first chapter of the monograph the author lays the scientific foundations of the proposed teaching methodology.

The proposed methodology of swimming training as a means of prevention and optimization of students' motor regime of a contributory nature. This chapter highlights the role of swimming as a major motor activity for the prevention and prophylaxis of disorders in the process of higher education.

The applied value of the proposed methodology is especially evident in the third chapter. The focus is on the established pedagogical model, which stimulates the active position of students and helps to increase their

cognitive and professional interests and motivates the to seek self-improvement.

The results of the approbation of the model prove that a profoundly innovative organization of the process conducted at the tertiary level in preparing various specialists has been created. It is especially important that this model can be used in the pedagogical practice of other universities.

3. The research presented in the scientific papers and reports, as well as the works with a clearly applied focus (the book and the textbook) can be divided into several thematic blocks:

a) Affordances of the methodology of swimming training. This thematic block highlights ideas about optimizing the learning process in swimming in higher education and developing an optimal methodology for improving the special training of non-athlete students (№ 7, № 10); the modernization of training solves a number of problems in the swimming lesson for students who are not actively involved in sports (№ 16). In the articles the author advocates the idea that swimming increases students' ability to work, requiring that the curriculum should be adapted to students' individual abilities, limited time and different motor skills (№ 9). The proposed methodology seeks new opportunities for the application of more effective methods and tools in the swimming lesson - game exercises, games and the use of smart technologies in sports classes (№ 18, № 19). This also includes issues related to the training of future Physical Education teachers, their practical and theoretical training, with their opinion on the need for a swimming course on the curriculum in the specialty "Physical Education and Sports" in higher education (№ 12). An important tool for teaching students in this specialty is Assoc. Prof. Tumanova' textbook "Swimming. Textbook for students from HEIs not specializing in sports", ISBN 978-954-07-4341-7.

b) Education and training of non-standard age groups - babies and the elderly, as well as people with special needs. "A Book about Swimming", ISBN 978-954-07-5193-1, has a high applied value due to the included training curricula. Assoc. Prof. Tumanova, PhD, offers models of mastering the basic swimming technique, as well as of the formation of motor habits for a healthier lifestyle, taking into account the abilities and needs of these non-standard age groups. In some of the presented articles, swimming is conceptualized as a system of a healthy lifestyle (№ 8), the author advocates that swimming activities are especially useful for people with mental disabilities, creates models through which people with disabilities can integrate into group swimming training with people without disabilities, offers ideas about motivating the elderly to do sports, justifies

that the quality of life of the elderly is increased through exercise in the aquatic environment (№ 3, № 4, 11, 15). The publications also emphasize the affordances of swimming as a sport that contributes to the overall good physical condition as well as to the intellectual development and social adaptation of babies, offers methods and forms of swimming training for this age group (№ 14, № 17).

c) The methodology of scientific and applied research is another problem that the author treats in the publications. She is interested in studying the motivation for sports in people's free time, as well as in the motivation of students not engaged in specialized sports education to participate in sports classes. Some of the articles present the results of studies on the relationship between emotional intelligence and sports or on students' expectations regarding aerobics classes (№ 5, № 6, № 13).

CONCLUSION

The documents and scientific work presented by Assoc. Prof. Boryana Tumanova, PhD, meet all the requirements of the Law on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for its implementation.

The candidate has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor". The publications contain original scientific and applied contributions. The theoretical developments have practical applicability as they are directly oriented to the pedagogy of physical education and sports and in particular swimming).

The results achieved by Assoc. Prof. Boryana Tumanova, PhD, in teaching and research fully comply with the requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor".

After examining the scientific papers presented in the competition and analyzing their significance and their scientific and applied contributions, I confidently give my positive assessment and recommend that the esteemed Scientific Jury should prepare a report-proposal for selecting Assoc. Prof. Boryana Tumanova, PhD, for the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific field of higher education 1. Pedagogy, professional field 1.3. "Pedagogy of teaching...", specialty "Pedagogy of teaching physical education and sports – swimming".



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Sofia

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