

OPINION

in relation to a competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” in the Field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences; Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Information Technologies in Primary Education, for the needs of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts

1. General presentation of the procedure

This opinion is prepared from the position of a member of a scientific jury included in the Register of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” under No 51/15.12.2021 and is legalized with Order No ПД 38-4/04.01.2022 of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” – Prof. Dr. Habil. Anastas Gerdjikov (digitally signed by Eliza Petrova Stefanova), in compliance with Art. 4 and Art. 25 from The Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ЗПАЧРБ), Art. 57 para (1) and para (2) of the Regulations for applying ЗПАЧРБ, Art. 118 para (1) and para (3) from The Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions in Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and on the basis of a corresponding Decision of the Faculty Council of Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts (FESA) after electronic vote from 1 p.m. on 20.12.2021 to 1 p.m. on 21.12.2021 (Protocol No 20). In SG, issue 96/19.11.2021 a competition for the needs of SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”, FESA, is announced in relation to the occupation of academic position “Associate Professor” in the Field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences; Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Information Technologies in Primary Education. The only candidate in the competition is a lecturer, Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Nikolaev Dushkov from SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”. No procedure irregularities were identified. As a member of the Scientific Jury I have received an access to the documents of Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Nikolaev Dushkov, which include:

1. CV;
2. Higher Education Degree Diploma with the corresponding application;
3. Doctoral Degree Diploma;
4. Document for academic position;
5. Certificate of professional experience;
6. Documents proving fulfilment of the requirements according to Art. 115, para 1, pt. 2;
7. Medical certificate;
8. Criminal record certificate;
9. Lists of publications:
 - a. list of all publications;
 - b. list of the publications presented for the competition;
10. List of publications, conferences, projects and scientific guidance connected with the occupied academic position in SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”;
11. Reference sample for the implementation of the minimum national requirements for the corresponding scientific field and the additional requirements of SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”;
12. Citations reference;

13. Reference for the original scientific contributions;
14. Reference for the indicators of art. 122, para. 2;
15. Copies of scientific papers presented for the competition;
16. Abstracts of the reviewed papers
17. Copy of the announcement in the State Gazette..

2. General presentation of the candidate

The documents and materials of the only candidate in the competition have been carefully presented and enable an objective and complete evaluation in accordance with the requirements of the National Acts (ЗПАСРБ and the Regulations for its implementation), as well as the Regulations of SU “St. Kliment Ohridski” and FESA.

In 1998 Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Dushkov graduated from the Secondary school No 7 „St. Sedmochislenitsi”, Sofia with enlarged studies of mathematics. He received higher education in SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of mathematics and informatics: bachelor in 2002 and master in 2008. He has master degree in mathematics, specialization Applied mathematics, Profile Mathematical modelling and application of mathematics. During the period 2003–2004 he went further with post-diploma qualification in SU “St. Kliment Ohridski” acquiring teacher legal capacity. In the period 2004 – 2006 he worked as a teacher in mathematics and informatics in Secondary school No 8 “Vasil Levski”, Sofia. Since 2006 he is under constant working contract as a full-time lecturer in the Chair “Primary school pedagogy” at SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”. In 2015 he successfully defended his dissertation on the topic “Integration of information-communication technologies in mathematical education in primary school (in the geometry curriculum)”. In different periods he was Assistant Professor, Senior Assistant Professor and Chief Assistant Professor because of the changes of the law for the development of the academic staff. Since 2016, after the defence of his dissertation he is Chief Assistant Professor. He has computer abilities and speaks English.

3. Description of candidate’s scientific production

The scientific production of Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Dushkov includes 2 monographs and 22 papers and reports in scientific national and international conferences. 11 of them are independent and 11 are co-authored, 9 of them are in English and 13 are in Bulgarian. The candidate participates in the competition with 21 publications, including 3 papers which are referred and indexed in Web of Science.

The contributions of Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Dushkov are in 3 directions:

Theory-systematic

Examination, approbation and confirmation of assertions, that are connected with methods in mathematical education in primary school age; innovation approach to integration of educational multimedia; systematization of problems creating multimedia didactic materials; review of theories on multimedia learning.

Experimental-investigatory

An original author’s model is elaborated and approbated with teaching multimedia presentations, integrated in mathematical education in primary school classes; a system of

criteria for improving already used multimedia didactic materials; An original author's set is elaborated and approbated including teaching multimedia presentations, integrated in the mathematical education in primary school classes in relation with tasks of entertaining character.

Practice-applicable

Electronic courses for teaching of students in pedagogical specializations using the Moodle system; elaboration and actualization of new university courses: „Web-design for pedagogical goals“; „Web-design for teachers“; „Mathematics-statistical methods in physical training and sport“; „Information and communication technologies in teaching and work in digital environment“; „Audiovisual and information technologies“; „Ongoing pedagogical practice“; „Pre-diploma practice“; „Computer modelling“; educational sets approved by the Ministry of education and science connected with the subject “Computer modelling” in grades III and IV.

4. Presentation of candidate's teaching

The teaching activities of Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Dushkov are rich and diverse. They include:

Three compulsory disciplines for bachelor degree education – Information and Communication technologies in teaching and work in digital environment, Audiovisual and information technologies, Mathematics-statistical methods in physical training and sport;

Four compulsory disciplines – Information and communication technologies in teaching and work in digital environment, Pedagogical statistics, Processing and data analysis in social investigations, Specialized contemporary information technologies;

Two contemporary-elective disciplines – Web-design for pedagogical goals, Digital competence and digital creativity;

One elective discipline in master degree education – Web-design for teachers;

Three classes in courses for post-diploma qualification (CДК) – Information and communication technologies in teaching and work in digital environment, Ongoing pedagogical practice, Pre-diploma practice.

In addition to the teaching activities of Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Dushkov it should be noted the scientific guidance of a program for post-diploma qualification and the scientific guidance of 8 graduates, also his participation in teaching in connection with the improvement of teachers' capacity connected with the discipline Computer modelling.

5. Presentation of candidate's scientific and applied scientific activity

Since 2016 Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Dushkov has participated as a contractor in 14 scientific projects which contribute to the development of students' competence in their future professional occupation.

CONCLUSION

From all of the above it is obvious that Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Nikolaev Dushkov is a valuable specialist in methodology of information technologies in primary education with a proven experience in this field. His scientific production complies with the minimum national requirements and is repeatedly cited. There is no reason to believe that it is not his personal work, which excludes a presence of plagiarism. This makes me conclude that his scientific, scientific-applied, teaching activity and his qualities fulfil the requirements of the ЗРАСРБ, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” for the academic staff development required to the candidates for the academic position “Associate Professor”. Therefore, **my conclusion is positive about the election of “Associate Professor”** and I would like to propose to the honourable members of the Scientific Jury to support this application and to submit a proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts at Sofia University “St. Kl. Ohridski” to elect Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Nikolaev Dushkov for **“Associate Professor” in Pedagogy of Information Technologies in Primary Education.**

Sofia, 10 February 2022

Author of the opinion:



(Prof. Dr. Habil Sava Grozdev)