



OPINION

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for „Associate Professor“ in the field of higher education **5 Technical Sciences**, Professional field **5.13. General Engineering**, scientific specialty **“Ergonomics and Industrial Design”** in the discipline **“Home Interior and Furnishing Design”**

In the competition for associate professor, published in the State Gazette issue 32/03.04.2020 and on the site of the University of Forestry with the code WWI-AsP-0320-39 for the needs of the Department of Furniture Production at the Faculty of Forest Industry, as a candidate participate Chief Assist. Prof. Pavlina Minkova Vodenova Ph.D., Faculty of Forest Industry, Department of Interior and Furniture Design.

Prepared the opinion: Assoc. Prof. **Silvina Dimitrova Ilieva, Ph.D.** in a professional field **5.13. General Engineering**, scientific specialty **“Ergonomy and Industrial Design”**, from **Technical University Sofia - Branch Plovdiv**, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Mechanics.

1. Brief biographical data for the candidate

Chief Assist. Prof. Pavlina Minkova Vodenova, Ph.D. was born on 7th of August 1976 in Sofia. She is part of the academic staff of University of Forestry since 15.08.2009, firstly as an Assist. Professor until 11.04.2018, and since then as a Senior Assist. Professor in “Styles in Interior and Furniture” at the Department of Interior Furniture Design.

The candidate acquired a Ph.D. degree in scientific specialty “Technology, mechanization and automation of the woodworking and furniture industry”, professional field 5.13. General Engineering in July 2017 on the topic “Systematic approach for children’s surroundings in contemporary home design”.

She also served as a part-time lecturer in New Bulgarian University from 09.2009 until 07.2015, where she presented lectures and seminars in the topics: “Technics and materials”.

Her University Education finished in 2000, when she graduated from the University of Forestry as an engineer with a Master’s Degree in “Furniture and Interior Design”. After her graduation, she worked for 5 years as a designer in bulgarian furniture production and trade companies (SKS Unidesign, AVEL-52 Ltd., AGON Ltd.). After that she spent a 4-year period as a product specialist in Kammarton Bulgaria Ltd.

Since 1995 the candidate has a Secondary education from the National High School in Finance and Business in the capital – Sofia, specialty “Banking, insurance and assurance”.

Pavlina Vodenova presents seminars in the following topics for Bachelor’s Degree:

- “Home Interior and Furnishing Design”
- “Social Furnishing Design”
- „Shaping”
- „Management of Design Process”
- „Mass and Serial Furniture Design”

She also presents lectures and seminars in the following topics for Master’s Degree:

- „Surroundings Design for Disabled People ”

- „Stylistic Interior Design”
- “Avantgarde Furniture Design”
- “Illuminant Design”

Pavlina Vodenova has accomplished a number of authors projects in the field of design – interior design of a single-family buildings, multiroom homes, corporative offices, sports halls etc.

The contestant has a command of English, Russian and French language.

2. Correspondence of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant according to the Rules of the Development of academic staff at the University of Forestry.

The submitted documents and materials of the candidate, Chief Assist. Prof. Pavlina Minkova Vodenova, Ph.D, are in conformity with the requirements of the Law for Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria and Rules of the Development of academic staff at the University of Forestry.

The documents are logically connected and supported by proving material, systematized in 14 applications.

The minimal national requirements for the scientific research and educational teaching activities needed for the “Associate Professor” competition are also respected in the following way:

- A: Dissertation (Ph.D.) – 50 points (required – 50 points);
- B: Monograph – 100 points (required - 100 points);
- C: Scientific Publications - 343,31 points (required – 200 points);
- D: Citations - 87 points (required – 50 points).

The total score is 580,31 (required – 400 points), which completely exceed the minimum national requirements for occupying academic position “**Associate Professor**”.

3. Assessment of the candidate’s educational and pedagogical activities (work with students and PhD students)

The candidate, Chief. Assoc. Prof. Pavlina Vodenova, presents lectures and seminars in the following disciplines:

- “Home Interior and Furnishing Design” – specialty "Engineering Design (Interior and Furniture Design)", Bachelor's Degree Program;
- „Social Furnishing Design” – specialty "Engineering Design", Bachelor's Degree Program;
- “Shaping” – speciality "Engineering Design", Bachelor's Degree Program;
- „Management of Design Process” – specialty „Engineering Design”, Bachelor's Degree Program;
- “Mass and Serial Furniture Design“ – specialty "Engineering Design", Bachelor's Degree Program;
- „Surroundings Design for Disabled People” – specialty "Engineering design", Master's degree program;

- „Stylistic Interior Design” – specialty "Engineering design", Master's degree program;
- „Avantgarde Furniture Design” – specialty "Engineering design", Master's degree program;
- „Illuminant Design” – specialty "Engineering design", Master's degree program.

Chief Assist. Prof. Angelova has composed the following curricula in University of Forestry:

- „Home Interior and Furnishing Design“, Bachelor's Degree Program;
- „Shaping“, Bachelor's Degree Program and Master's degree program;
- „Management of Design Process“, Master's degree program;
- „Illuminant Design“, Master's degree program

and in New Bulgarian University:

- „Materials Science and Technologies”;
- „Basics of Construction – Part 1 and 2”.

The candidate has had the experience as a participant in working groups on accreditation of specialties at Faculty of Forest Industry. In addition to that, she has prepared 109 reviews of graduates' thesis works and take part in institutional and international teams for educational and applied projects.

The curricular and extracurricular workload of Chief Assist. Prof. Pavlina Minkova Vodenova, Ph.D. in the last 5 years completely correspond to and exceed the normative requirements.

4. Assessment of candidate's scientific, scientific-applied and publishing activities

General description of the presented materials

Candidate Desislava Ivanova Angelova participated in the competition with:

- Monographs - 1 number (s);
- Books - 1 number (s);
- Publications - 21 number (s);
- Accomplished author's projects in the field of architecture or design – 1 number (s).

4.1 Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects

The candidate presents an evidence of participating in:

- 9 educational projects, financed by different operational programs;
- 3 applied projects, financed by Scientific Research Sector of University of Forestry.

4.2 Characterization of published scientific results

The presented publications in the competition may be classified in the following way:

Total: 23

Type of publication:

Monographs – 1;

Published books – 1;

Publications in scientific magazines:

- In foreign referenced magazine in the Web of Science и SCOPUS – 1;
- In foreign referenced magazine outside the Web of Science и SCOPUS – 1;
- In Bulgarian referenced magazine outside the Web of Science и SCOPUS – 10;

Publications in international symposium from scientific forums - 4;
Popular science publications - 5;

Site of publication:

- In Bulgaria – 19;
- In foreign parts – 4;

Publication language:

- Bulgarian – 12;
- English -11;

Co-authorship:

- independent - 12;
- with co-author - 6;
- with 2 co-authors - 3;
- with 3 or more co-authors – 2.

4.3 Reflection of Candidate's Scientific Publications in Literature (known citations)

- Total - 21 citations.
- Reviews of realized authors products in specialized issue on the topic of design – 1.

By type of citations:

- In referenced and indexed journals and proceedings of scientific forums (in Web of Science and SCOPUS) – 5 citations;
- In referenced monographs and proceedings (outside the Web of Science and SCOPUS) – 3 citations;
- In unreferenced scientific journals and series (outside Web of Science and SCOPUS) – 13 citations;

4.4 Contributions to the candidate's work (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)

Drawing a general conclusion from the contents of presented scientific production in the competition, the main contributions may be classified, as follows:

Scientific and theoretical contribution:

- A theoretical model and methodological guidelines for the design of single products and surroundings designed for children, with continuous consideration of the features of the function, construction, material and features of this type of interiors. (G6.1);
- New phases in the process of interior design have been added, as well as new connections between them have been discovered in the context of the modern technological development of the design process. (V3.1)

Scientific-applied contribution:

- The historical development of children's furniture and interior in the XIX - XX century is studied. (D6.1; D8.18). All processes characteristic of children in the respective age range from a psychological, physiological and anthropometric point of view are analyzed in development. (G 6.1);

- The main factors influencing the construction of modern children's furniture and interiors are extracted and systematized. The relationship between color, shape, composition, material and lighting has been established. (G6.1;G8.9;G8.13);
- An author's classification has been developed, which presents in tabular form the children's furniture, as the considered parameters are monofunctionality, transformability, bifunctionality, possibility for adaptation to the changing height of the child, etc. From it conclusions and findings follow the regarding material, color , shape, composition, etc., on the basis of which conclusions are drawn for different types of children's furniture. (G6.1);
- The necessary single-function products are systematized, providing the activities in the children's environment in the home, on this basis the possibilities for grouping the activities in one multifunctional product are derived. Perspective guidelines on the construction of a children's environment and the furniture used for its furnishing are summarized. Systematized and defined algorithm of work in the different phases of the analysis and design of children's furniture and interior (G 6.1; G8.9;G8.13);
- The need to update the methods of interior design based on a study of the opinion of established experts in this field has been proven. The phases of the interior design process, which are passed during the design, are traced, summarized and systematized. (B3.1);
- The construction of the interior as a spatial composition is studied, as the main and most important building elements forming the space and the furniture groups included in it are considered. Based on the theoretical research, a methodology for consistency in the study of the individual building elements of the interior composition and their practical application is proposed. (B3.1; G8.15;G8.17);
- The broad integration of ecodesign has been established as an approach that must be integrated into modern design methods and practices for the design and manufacture of furniture and living environment. The concept of mutual differentiation and reduction of the harmful impact on the environment of products and services throughout their life cycle is necessary. (G6.1; G8.2; G8.9; G8.20);
- The possibilities for improving the utilitarian nature of the living environment are analyzed, and hence the quality of life of its inhabitants. This analysis encourages innovation in the use of materials, technologies and innovative design approaches as powerful tools for improving the urban environment and living standards of the population. (G8.6; G8.7; G8.15; G 8.17;G8.20);
- The peculiarities of the design students' education are analyzed and clarified. It has been proven that creating a specific creative atmosphere and teacher-student relations, the use of new, non-traditional teaching methods creates creative self-confidence and skill for professional work of students. The paramount importance of the development of creative thinking has been established, along with the acquisition of the necessary basic knowledge in the training of future designers. This necessitates modern methods that stimulate creativity and the connection between engineering and creative disciplines. (G7.1; G8.3; G8.10; G8.11; G8.14);
- Design thinking has been found to be a broad-spectrum methodology that has applications in both the private and public sectors, in various industries, in established

and start-up companies. It has been proven that design thinking could be a successful tool in the basis of developing new solutions - products, services, programs or others. (G8.12; G8.16; G8.19).

Applied contribution:

- The premises intended for children's rooms in the residential planning schemes in the country have been studied and analyzed. The existence of new furniture products for children has been established, in unison with modern technologies and communications, sports and physical activity. The proposed design methods for designing a children's environment have been tested. (G6.1; G8.13);
- Systematized methods of work in the various phases of interior design can support the stages of the actual implementation of the design process, and can be used by students and practitioners in the field of interior design. The systematized and defined algorithm of work in the separate phases of analysis and interior design will be useful both in the educational process of the students and of all specialists in the field of interior design. (V3.1);
- New methods for research and design of certain functions, characteristic for the everyday life of the children of the respective age, have been introduced in the education of the students. (G6.1; G8.13);
- A methodology for conducting a new module in the training course for students majoring in "Engineering Design (Interior and Furniture Design)" called "Project Week" has been tested and developed. The stages of special importance during the implementation of this student module are clearly distinguished: choice of topic, composition of students, preparation and organization of the module, etc. (G7.1; G8.3; G8.10; G8.11; G8.14);
- The impact of design thinking has been studied as a simple but powerful formula that leads to the creation of solutions with visible added value for the customer, hence the guaranteed positive result for organizations (G8.12; G8.16; G8.19).

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal candidate

In the presented information for the publications, the candidate shows a leading role in the presented works. Chief. Assist. Prof. Pavlina Minkova Vodenova, Ph.D. is the author of 12 independent publications. As far as the collective publications are concerned, she is: first in 6 works, second in 3, third in 2. They reveal the professional and scientific preparation of the candidate as well as her teamwork abilities.

After the introduction to all works of Chief. Assist. Prof. Pavlina Minkova Vodenova, Ph.D, presented in the Associate Professor competition, I consider they and the contributions, contained in them, are her personal deeds or reached due to her significant role.

6. Critical remarks

My personal opinion does not consist of any large critical remarks in terms of the presented materials for the competition. It is obvious that the scientific, scientifically-applied and education activities of the candidate undoubtedly exceed the minimums set for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor".

The only recommendation I can make is related to the list of contributions. The candidate may present it in briefer way as some the contributions may be united by appropriate signs.

7. Personal impressions

Personally, I have no impression of the candidate since I have not met her yet, but after a diligent examination of the applied materials in the competition for "Associate Professor", I can conclude, that she is in fact a much productive young scientist and designer, dedicated lecturer and colleague, who can be distinguished for creativity and teamwork abilities.

I consider Chief Assist. Prof. Pavlina Minkova Vodenova Ph.D. possesses all abilities and skills needed for the academic position "Associate professor".

8. Conclusion

In connection with the above, I propose that Chief Assist. Prof. Pavlina Minkova Vodenova Ph.D., be elected as an "Associate Professor" in the discipline "Home interior and furnishing projecting" in the field of higher education 5 Technical Sciences, professional field 5.13. General Engineering, scientific specialty "Ergonomics and Industrial Design".

Prepared the opinion:

/Assoc. Prof. Silvina Ilieva Ph.D./

Opinion delivered on: