



OPINION STATEMENT

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for “**Professor**” academic position in the higher education field 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, professional field 6.5. Forestry, scientific degree “Technology, mechanization and automation of the woodworking and furniture industry”, in the subject area “Wood cutting and Cutting tools”

In the competition for professor degree, as published in the State Gazette, Issue 37 dated 07.05.2019 and on the website of the University of Forestry with code WWW - P - 0419 – 06, for the needs of the Department of „Woodworking machines” at the Faculty of Forest Industry, as a candidate participates Assoc. Prof. Zhivko Bonev Gochev Ph.D., Faculty of Forestry, Department of „Woodworking machines“.

Prepared by: Dimitar Hristov Angelski, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. in Professional Field 6.5. Forestry

1. Brief biographical data for the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Zhivko Bonev Gochev, Ph.D., is born in 1960 in Dimitrovgrad. In 1980 he becomes student at the University of Forestry (at those times named High Forestry Institute, VLTI), which he graduates in 1985 as engineer, M.Sc., in the specialty (major) of Mechanical Wood Technology. The same year he starts his professional career as engineer-technologist in a furniture manufacturing factory („Bukelon-M“AD, Haskovo). Since 1987 till 1990 he is full-time doctor student at the department “Mechanisation and automatisisation at woodworking and furniture industry”, Faculty of Forest Industry. Since 1991 till end of 1992 he works as research engineer in the scientific research center of the High Forestry Institute (University of Forestry since 1995). In the meantime, he has been appointed as part-time assistant at the department “Mechanisation and automatisisation at woodworking and furniture industry”. From 1992 till 1994 he works as engineer-technologist in the production department of the woodworking machines factory ZDM Koynare EOOD. In 1996 he makes his dissertation thesis with subject “Research study on the laser cutting process of furniture details made of fiberboards” and is awarded the academic and scientific “Doctor” degree. The same year he has been appointed as Head Assistant at the department of “Woodworking machines”. In 1997 he specializes in Japan, while in 1998 and in 2001 he participates in two specialization programs in Sweden. After participating in a competition in 2005 he is appointed as Associate Professor at the department of ‘Woodworking machines’, which academic position he still has when applying for the current competition. Since 2010 he is registered as independent appraiser of machines and equipment, being certified for this competency by the Chamber of Independent Appraisers in Bulgaria (CIAB). In addition, Assoc. Prof. Zhivko Gochev is expert at the Bulgarian Institute for Standartisation – Technical committee of Standartisation TK-52 “Safety of machinery and equipment” and participates in the development of wide range of national, European and international standards in the area of machinery and equipment safety. Assoc. Prof. Gochev has been member of the Managing Board of the Alumni Association Jica Bulgaria for the period 2005-2007. In 2007 he has been appointed as head of department “Woodworking machines”. Since 2013 till 2016 he works as deputy dean, and since 2016 till the moment is dean at the Faculty of Forest Industry.

2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant with the Rules on development of the academic staff at the University of Forestry.

All provided materials for participation in the competition have been prepared properly, being clearly arranged. They all comply to the recommended requirements as per the Law on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the rules for implementing that law. All the terms and conditions for occupation of academic positions are met as specified under the Rules on development of the academic staff (PRAS) at the University of Forestry (LTU).

Assoc. Prof. Zhivko Gochev meets the mandatory requirements for occupying the academic position "Professor". He has been "Associate Professor" since 2005, has published monographic work, which topic differs from the dissertation subject. He has taken participation in many scientific research projects. He presents list of all his publications (scientific works) ever since he has occupied the academic degree "Associate Professor". Enclosed are also copy of his diploma for the scientific "Doctor" degree, document for the occupied academic degree "Associate Professor", reference for his contributions at scientific publications and reflections of his paperwork by other authors, report on his academic employment at the University of Forestry. According to the requirements are presented also other materials and supporting documents.

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

For the overall educational and pedagogical activity of the candidate are typical the following most important characteristics: wide coverage, high professional level, sufficiency as required by the competition. He presents himself as well-established and well-respected teacher among the colleagues and students not only at the University of Forestry, but also at universities from other European countries. This opinion is confirmed by available facts as duly presented in the full documentation provided for this competition. Assoc. Prof. Gochev has already over 22 years of professional experience as university teacher, out of them 14 years being as "Associate Professor". Through the years he has been a leading lecturer in 6 subject areas. The major of them is "Wood cutting and Cutting tools", at which specifically the competition is announced. He had seminars and practical (laboratory) exercises with students from bachelors and master's degree of education in the specialty "Technology of wood and furniture" (previous titles being also "Mechanical technology of wood", "Woodworking and furniture production", "Wood technology"). He has been thesis director on 28-diploma thesis of students from bachelor and master degree of education. He is also author of 4 well-established and used educational programs for students studying in subject under bachelor and master degree (reference № FFI-3042/20.05.2019). Over the years Assoc. Prof. Gochev has accomplished his academic workload in accordance to the Rules of Operation (the Rulebook) of the University of Forestry (Official ref. note № FFI-2689/08.05.2019). The teaching-workload norm of Assoc. Prof. Gochev has been reduced since 2007 as result of the occupied administrative managerial position pursuant to Art.61 of the Rulebook of the University of Forestry. During the current school year 2018/2019 he has had teaching-workload of 176 hours with bachelor students and 41 hours with master students. Despite that, he has been organisor and trainer of two lecture programs by the Center for continuing education at the University of Forestry (Official ref. note № CCE-

2875/14.05.2019). He is also author of the textbook "Wood cutting and Cutting tools" (2018 edition). In 2017 he has published his full lecture course in the subject "CNC equipment, instruments and technologies" studied at the specialty "Technology of wood and furniture" under master's degree of education (Blackboard system at the University of Forestry). Considering their structure and content, those courses are fully compliant with the respective study programs under which are developed. They are written in appropriately selected and readable style, rich in illustrations, easily perceived by students. In addition, Assoc. Prof. Gochev is co-author of the "Entrepreneur's guide at woodworking and furniture industry", 2008 edition. All mentioned publications are at high educational and professional level, confirmed by the respective authoritative reviewers. Assoc. Prof. Gochev has been scientific supervisor of 1 successfully graduated doctoral (PhD) student. He takes also active participation as staff member of the State examination committees for students' graduation in the specialty "Technology of wood and furniture". Many times he has participated and was assigned as chairman of examination committees, committees for preparation of accreditation procedures, as well as in competitions for scientific and/or academic degrees. Since 1995 Assoc. Prof. Gochev is head of the scientific research laboratory "Laser technologies" at the Faculty of Forestry, which he supports actively through the years. He is leading organizer in the development and implementation of educational module "Production practice" for students from the specialty "Technology of wood and furniture". It is worth noting the active participation of Assoc. Prof. Gochev in different events aimed at education and raising the qualification of specialists. This activity is proven by enclosed in the set of documents various acknowledgement and appreciation letters issued by other universities (Technical University in Zvolen and Saints Cyril & Methodius University of Skopje), companies (ZMM Smolyan and Dadeks, Haskovo) and organisations (Innova Wood).

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

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Zhivko Bonev Gochev, Ph.D., participated in the competition with the following set of documents:

- Monographic work - 1 unit;
- Textbooks - 2 units;
- Learning materials - 1 unit;
- Books - 1 unit;
- Publications - 95 units;
- Projects - 21 units.

All above mentioned publications are written after the previous habilitated procedure for acquisition of the academic position "Associate professor" has taken place. Based on the presented documents and materials, it's quite clear that the scientific, applied science and publishing activities are fully compliant with the requirements for occupation of the academic position "Professor" as specified in the Rulebook for the Academic Staff Development at the University of Forestry. I highly appreciate the publishing activity of Assoc. Prof. Gochev. Publications are dealing with solutions on actual problems in the wood processing and furniture industry. The style of the author is extremely professional, academic, clear and readable.

4.1 Participation in scientific, applied science and educational projects

Assoc. Prof. Zhivko Bonev Gochev has taken part in the development of 6 scientific research projects after he has occupied the academic position 'Associate professor'. He has been scientific supervisor in 5 of those projects, 1 of them being international project. He has participated also in 5 national educational programs, as well as in 8 applied projects related to development of wood processing and furniture industry.

4.2 Characterization of published scientific results

Assoc. Prof. Zhivko Bonev Gochev develops in-depth scientific and applied science activity. His scientific interests are wide and extensive, summarized in the following main directions:

1. Wood cutting and wooden materials.
2. Wood cutting tools.
3. CNC equipment, instruments and technologies.
4. Integrated usage of wooden biomass for energy production.

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

- Total - 60 citations.

By type of citations:

- In reference journals and proceedings of scientific forums - 52 citations;
- In teaching materials, monographic works, dissertations, etc. - 8 citations.

4.4 Contributions of the candidate's work (scientific, applied science, applied)

The overview on all materials and documents submitted for the competition shows that the entire candidate's production possesses proven contributions that surpass by volume and relevance to the science and practice the normative requirements for occupying the academic position "Professor". There are numerous contributions with scientific, applied science and applied nature in the set of scientific publications presented by Assoc. Prof. Gochev for the participation in the competition, which are duly presented in their detailed reference list (26 pages). I recognize the high competence, professionalism and scientific-research skills of Assoc. Prof. Gochev and thus I firmly acknowledge (so thus not to repeat them) the indicated by him in the reference list scientific, applied science and applied contributions.

5. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

The set of documents submitted for the competition do not provide any information on share or percentage of participation of the candidate in the team publications and co-works. The review of those, where he is the only author, clearly shows that he has his own character of proven researcher. This specifics of the candidate could be easily found out in many other team works, which gives me reason to state that his participation and personal contribution in those co-works is well identified and noticeable. The contributions of certain scientific work would not be available or would be indistinguishable if it misses clearly expressed author's ideas, concepts, critical analysis and rational conclusions. I acknowledge that those are available in the provided scientific, considerable in volume, work.

6. Critical remarks

After checking the full set of documents I may state that I don't have any critical remarks towards the way the documentation is completed for this competition, to the included materials inside and particularly towards the type and content of the presented copies of all publications. Based on the detailed preview of the scientific documentation set, I have not found out any significant gaps, inaccuracies or contradictions.

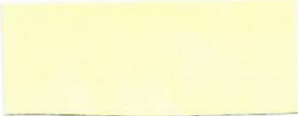
7. Personal impressions

I have long term direct impression of the personality of Assoc. Prof. Zhivko Bonev Gochev. Fully confident, I may state that he is multilateral personality with strong and positive qualities. I know him for being very intelligent, open, conscientious, purposeful and energetic person. He is capable of working either solely or in cooperation in a team. I am delighted of his hardworking combined with precision, accuracy and sense of responsibility and honesty. The review performed on the fulfillment of the criteria for occupying the academic position "Professor" shows that the candidate not only complies with the preset requirements and conditions, but he considerably surpasses many of them. All that gives me sufficient reason to express my positive opinion and conviction about the merits he has not only as outstanding university teacher, scientist and specialist, but also as well diversified personality.

8. Conclusion

In relation to all above, I propose that Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Zhivko Bonev Gochev is selected for the academic position of "Professor" in the discipline „Wood cutting and cutting tools“ in the Professional field 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty „Technology, mechanization and automation of the woodworking and furniture industry“.

Opinion prepared by:


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