

**Minutes of the  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
Friday, 14 October 2005, 12.30 - 14.00**

*Present:* Janos Amrik, Judit Bodnar, Yehuda Elkana (*chair*), Eva Fodor, Julius Horvath, Zdenek Kudrna, Laszlo Matyas, Liviu Matei (*ex officio, non-voting*), Howard Robinson, Istvan Teplán, Diana Urge-Vorsatz, Tibor Varady

*Not present:* Janos Kis

*Minutes:* Pusa Nastase

**1. Approval of the agenda**

Liviu Matei informed the Senate members that Istvan Rev, Keith Maunders and Barrie Riome were in attendance. He suggested that the meeting started with the matters related to self-archiving and the Business School.

With this amendment the agenda was approved as submitted.

**2. Approval of the minutes**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**3. Approval of validators**

Julius Horvath and Diana Urge-Vorsatz volunteered as validators.

**4. Proposal for a CEU self-archiving policy**

*Invited: Istvan Rev*

Istvan Rev briefed the Senate on the proposed self-archiving policy. He explained that the Senate can make it mandatory for faculty to place their academic writing (either post and/or pre-print) in an electronic archive maintained by the university, thus allowing public access to all academic output. Dissertations and theses could also be included in the electronic archive.

Istvan Rev stated that the copyright concerns are very limited as most journals allow authors to give access to their work to the home institution. However, in case an author is not allowed by a certain journal to make his article available in the CEU electronic archive bibliographical info material can be added indicating the title of the article and where it was published. The OSA Director also clarified that electronic archiving only applies to future academic output and not to works from the past.

The Rector noted that granting access to research and academic output to the public is part of both CEU's and OSI's missions.

Tibor Varady raised the issues of what exactly is the copyright (and whether authors are always in command of their work) and how can authors make sure that they always get the last electronic version. Laszlo Matyas raised concerns that it could be too burdensome for faculty to obtain the rights from journals and publishers and suggested that it is best to have a staff member designated to deal with these issues.

The Senate decided to establish a small working group (consisting of Julius Horvath, Tibor Varady and Istvan Rev) mandated to put together a proposal that would address the issues raised by the Senate.

## **5. Business School matters**

*Invited: Keith Maunders and Barrie Riome*

### *-Report on the undergraduate program*

Liviu Matei reported briefly on the accreditation of the undergraduate program of the Business School. He informed the Senate members that an accreditation team, chaired by Sherry Penney (former Provost of Yale and President of the University of Massachusetts) and consisting of five members, visited CEU at the beginning of September 2005. Before the visit CEU submitted an Application for approval of substantive change to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and a Charter Amendment and a request for a Charter amendment and registration of the undergraduate program, to the New York Regents.

He drew attention to the fact that the undergraduate programs also come with the obligation to have a more thorough outcome assessment plan. The 2008/2009 visit of the MSA accreditation team will focus on the topic of Outcome Assessment and proper action will have to be taken to proceed with implementing CEU's strategy on Outcome Assessment. He also indicated that for the next joint meeting of the Senate and the Academic Forum a US consultant might be invited.

Barrie Riome reported that the recruitment for the undergraduate program was very successful as they were able to recruit 45 students (far more than the 25 students they initially hoped for). He remarked that the undergraduate program is quite demanding in terms of student services, as the students are here for a longer period of time, receive full medical insurance and in general need more guidance and assistance.

### *- Launching weekend MBA and MS programs at another location*

Barrie Riome introduced the proposal to offer a part-time Weekend MBA Program of the CEU Business School in Bucharest, Romania. He explained that CEU enjoys strong recognition and prestige in Romania and at present there is a strong demand from both individuals and companies for such a program in Bucharest.

Tibor Varady expressed his concern that while the weekend MBA programs are successful at generating revenues these are also known to be likely to jeopardize the academic quality. He said that he is worried that such a program could affect the academic quality of CEU and said that there should be quality assurance mechanisms in place to make sure that does not happen.

Addressing these concerns, Ferenc Partos and Barrie Riome explained that in order to maintain the academic quality the same faculty, materials and methodology would be used. Moreover, the Weekend MBA program would last 2.5 years as opposed to the full time MBA program that lasts only one year. In order to help students at the Bucharest campus CEU would organize a library and ITR unit on location.

Yehuda Elkana stated that he encourages the Senate to maintain a strict control on the academic quality of the Business School, although George Soros envisages that the School will become more and more independent. He insisted that CEU maintain control not only on appointments at the Business School but also on degree granting.

*The Senate approved conditionally the proposal for launching a weekend MBA and MS programs in Bucharest under the condition that the Quality Assurance Committee monitors and ensures the maintenance of academic quality.*

## **6. Senate Committees reports**

The Rector said that the Committee on Strategic Development is at present re-thinking its role and cannot report to this meeting of the Senate.

The Academic Pro-Rector reported that the Quality Assurance Committee had intense activity during the last year.

Howard Robinson reported that the Curriculum Committee met several times since its establishment. At present the Committee is working on two major directions. The first deals with structuring the curriculum university-wide. Sophie Howlett was mandated to draw a basic template including minimum requirements for a curriculum and then the Committee will issue an order to every department to implement these basic requirements. Later this year a conference will take place bringing all departments together to make sure that the curriculum will be uniformly structured university-wide. The second direction deals with investigating the matter of duplication of courses.

The Rector stated that two additional tasks are envisaged for the Curriculum Committee. The first regards the growing need to tune curricula to a situation in which CEU will have to answer the question of why a very good student should come to CEU, and pay for this too. The second regards the introduction of a modular doctorate and how such a curricula should look.

Tibor Várady reminded everybody that the Grievance Committee is just an appeal board and informed the Senate that they did not have any cases in the past year.

Julius Horvath, the Chair of the Student - Faculty Disciplinary Committee informed the Senate that the Committee had various cases last year.

Yehuda Elkana asked whether faculty tends to be more responsive now than in the past and if, for instance, grades are delivered in time. Julius Horvath said this is not the case and the Pro-Rector explained that he had issued legally binding warning letters to faculty. The Rector said that the Heads of Department have to share responsibility, and follow up and report on the action they took to address certain issues raised by the Pro-Rector.

Diana Üрге-Vorsatz reported on the activity of the Academic Travel Grants Committee. She said that while CEU supports in principle both conference organizing and attending conference, due to the small budget available the Committee decided to

Approved by validators

only approve grants for attending conferences. She suggested that next year, when the budget will be increased significantly, CEU could also cover trips that are not necessarily to conferences but are related to academic life (such as when faculty travel to the Board of Directors of an organization).

Yehuda Elkana noted that while it was true that the budget was quite small, funds for conference organizing were also available from his Discretionary Fund. He asked the Chair of the Academic Travel Grants Committee to refer to him these cases that are worth funding but for which the Committee does not have the means.

*Upon Diana Urge-Vorsatz's suggestion the Senate voted to replace the late Istvan Gyorgy Toth with Andras Kovacs in the Academic Travel Grants Committee.*

Judit Bodnar reported on the activity of the Library Committee and said that the Committee decided to extend the existing data-bases and to look into how the shipping time of books could be shortened.

With regard to the activity of the Computer Committee, Zdenek Kudrna stated that although the Committee met several times during the last academic year he was concerned that the parallel Computer Committee established by the Pro-Rector could make the senate Committee redundant. Laszlo Matyas clarified that the competencies of the two Committees was indeed largely overlapping. However, since the Senate Committee has no jurisdiction over financial matters the rationale for establishing a parallel Committee was to advise the Pro-Rector on such matters.

*At Yehuda Elkana's proposal the Senate voted unanimously to appoint Eva Fodor as Chair of the Computer Committee (replacing Nitsan Chorev). She was mandated to convene the Committee as soon as possible, inviting the Rector, the Pro-Rector and the Academic Secretary to the first meeting.*

The Academic Pro-Rector reported that following the Hungarian accreditation the Doctoral Studies Committee would play an increased role and would have to hold meetings more often throughout the year.

Discussing the report of the CEU Research Board submitted in writing by Ivan Szelenyi Diana Urge-Vorsatz noted that this Board could also provide funds for publishing the academic work of CEU faculty. Additionally, CEU needs to also budget matching funds for European-funded projects.

## **7. Hungarian accreditation update**

- Appointment of CEU Habilitation Committee

Laszlo Matyas informed the Senate that following the Hungarian accreditation CEU can offer habilitation through its two doctoral schools, although it is not mandatory for its faculty to hold a Habilitation. The Habilitation Committee consists of three internal members (Susan Zimmerman (as Chair), Laszlo Csaba, Julius Horvath) and two external ones. Ernő Marosi and Maria Augustinovics were proposed as external members.

Approved by validators

*The Senate endorsed the proposal to appoint Ernő Marosi and Maria Augustinovic as members of the CEU Habilitation Committee.*

#### **8. Two-year MA program in Historical Studies**

Laszlo Matyas introduced the 2-year MA program and noted that this step is inevitable because following the changes introduced in the Bologna process, students who graduate after only 3 years of undergraduate studies will arrive at CEU. He clarified that the one-year and two-year program will overlap considerably, both curriculum-wise and financially.

The Rector noted that this is a very positive development and said that in the future CEU will probably have more two-year MA programs while allowing also room for the one-year ones.

*The Senate voted unanimously in favor of establishing a two-year MA program in Historical Studies including the curricula as it stands.*

#### **9. Proposal for guidelines for best practices in teaching and evaluation**

The Pro-Rector reported to the Senate that the comments of the Forum had already been incorporated into the document presented to the Senate at this meeting.

Zdenek Kudrna noted that the document is far more declaratory now as compared with the initial document drafted by the Quality Assurance Committee. For this reason he thought it would be best to consult again with the Student Council and to re-submit the document at the next Senate meeting.

Liviu Matei advised against this strategy and said that in his view the students could lose momentum in passing this Proposal. He suggested that the students could bring a proposal for amendments later on after the document was approved. Diana Urge-Vorsatz added that some of the initial requirements might never be approved given the strong adverse reaction of both Forum and Senate members.

*The Proposal was adopted as submitted with the following amendments:*

Paragraph 1 is reformulated as follows:

*As an educational institution that promotes non-discrimination and academic excellence, Central European University expects all departments and individual faculty to adhere to such academic and pedagogic behavior as will best ensure good student-faculty relations and maximize accountability, transparency, coherence, and procedural fairness in day-to-day course administration and evaluation. The present document present guidelines to assist departments and faculty in the maintenance of such best practices.*

The last paragraph of the document reads as follows:

*Members of the Senate Quality Assurance Committee should meet and communicate regularly with the Student Council to ensure that best practices in teaching and evaluation are being followed. The Committee will ensure this document is made available to all members of the university via the CEU web-site.*

### **10. Hungarian accreditation apostile**

Laszlo Matyas informed the Senate that the apostile is a nostrification process of foreign diplomas. Following its accreditation in Hungary CEU now has the authority to give nostrifications valid in all of the European Union. The procedure for issuing an apostile for diplomas granted in countries outside of the European Economic Area is the following; upon receiving such a request the University Doctoral Committee asks the doctoral schools to report in writing on the matter in the form of an expert report. Within 60 days the Committee has to decide whether to nostrify the degree, to refuse the nostrification or to nostrify conditionally. Given the relatively short deadline for reaching a decision CEU could soon reach a point when the Committee would be overwhelmed with requests for nostrifications.

Tibor Varady noted that there are also positive consequences of this situation as CEU can now nostrify its own PhD diplomas in History and Economics granted before the Hungarian accreditation

The Rector noted that the expenses related to nostrifying the degrees of its own faculty should be covered by CEU.

### **11. Joint meeting of the Senate and the Academic Forum, 4 November 2005**

The Rector informed the Senate that the joint meeting of the Senate and the Forum scheduled for November 4 would deal with matters arising before the Board meeting such as: the university budget, the endowment, recruitment, OSI and CEU relation, the issue of how paying students could affect the mission of the university, etc.

### **10. Other business**

Tibor Varady reported on the work in progress to reconcile CEU By-laws with the issues arising upon the Hungarian accreditation. He noted that the Hungarian Parliament would soon pass a law regarding higher education that could affect CEU's organization in such matters as the competencies of the Senate. He mentioned that CEU lawyers and Gerhard Casper (CEU Trustee) work together on this matter and the Senate also possibly be consulted via e-mail.

Zdenek Kudrna stated that the result of the electronic voting of the Senate should also be included in the minutes.