

**Minutes of the  
Extraordinary ACADEMIC SENATE meeting  
Thursday, 14 December 2006, 12.00-13.00**

*Present:* Judit Bodnar, Eva Fodor, Janos Kis, Zdenek Kudrna, Laszlo Matyas (*meeting chair*), Liviu Matei (*ex-officio, non-voting*), Howard Robinson, Tibor Varady, Diana-Urge Vorsatz

*Excused:* Yehuda Elkana, Julius Horvath, Roderick Martin

*In attendance:* Jeffrey Lee (chair of Student Council)

*Minutes:* Andrea Csele

**1. Approval of the agenda**

Jeffrey Lee asked the permission to deal first with the question regarding the admissions deadline for doctoral candidates. The Pro-Rector informed him that the admissions deadline for internal doctoral applicants has been changed from January to March. Actually this change does not require the approval of the Senate but it is the Executive Committee who decided about it.

The Pro-Rector asked for the patience of the Senate members since the minutes of the 8 December meeting could not have been submitted in time. As soon as they are validated, they will be circulated.

**2. Approval of validators**

Judit Bodnar and Zdenek Kudrna volunteered as validators.

**3. Appointment of CEU “Egyetemi Docens”**

According to the decision taken by the Senate on December 8, the “Egyetemi Docens” Evaluation Committee met on December 13 and made the evaluation of the application materials submitted by the heads of the History, Medieval Studies, Gender Studies and Economics departments. The list of appointments has been submitted to the Senate for approval. He explained that in order to be appointed the nominee has to have a doctoral degree nostrified in Hungary. He explained that the nostrification is a statement of equivalency by which an accredited doctoral school in Hungary recognizes that the foreign diploma is equivalent to the doctoral degree that the school issued. At the Academic Forum, there were questions regarding the nostrification procedure, how to do it, and the Pro-Rector explained that the nostrification procedure has to be done individually. There were also questions regarding the funding of the nostrification procedure, and he said that the Executive Committee would decide about an eventual refunding.

*The Senate members unanimously endorsed the list of appointments submitted to the Senate by the Egyetemi Docens Evaluation Committee.*

**4. Proposal for an M.A. program in Philosophy**

Howard Robinson explained that the Philosophy department intends to start a two-year M.A. program so that by September 2008, students can be enrolled in this program. As explained in the proposal submitted to the Senate members, one of the main motives for producing the proposal is that the department's doctoral program is eligible for Hungarian accreditation only if the department also offers an M.A. program.

The Pro-Rector mentioned that since the Hungarian accreditation is a longer procedure, the department should start with submitting the proposal for the U.S. accreditation.

At his question regarding the acceptance into the Ph.D. program of candidates without a Philosophy degree, Howard Robinson stated that students are evaluated case by case and for example students having a Sociology degree with specialization in Philosophy, they might be accepted. The Pro-Rector proposed that the M.A. program proposal should be designed in such a way as to enlarge the access pool of students.

*The proposal submitted to the Senate members was unanimously endorsed as submitted.*

##### **5. Revisions to CEU regulations regarding exams**

The Pro-Rector provided explanations regarding the revisions needed to CEU regulations concerning the exams. He said that in 2005, when the Hungarian institutional accreditation was submitted, several new regulations had had to be submitted. Most of these regulations were based on existing CEU regulations, reflecting exactly what was in the By-Laws. There was no contradiction between the Hungarian language and the U.S. regulations. However, there are two differences: 1) the U.S. grading scale (from A to F) has to be transposed to the Hungarian grading scale (which is from 1 to 5) and 2) the name of the degrees. However this is not the only reason to modify the regulations. It is also because of the two-year M.A. programs, which are to be started.

Judit Bodnar expressed her concern regarding the possibility of CEU students taking courses outside CEU and especially non-CEU students taking courses at CEU, and called for a careful regulation of the latter.

Students who are officially enrolled in a program go through a serious application procedure before selected, letting outsiders take courses on the basis of a much less strict selection process may dilute the seriousness of our application criteria. More importantly, the quality of the infrastructure, small class sizes and the time professors spend with their students are the special features of CEU which define its market niche, therefore we should be careful that openness should not lead to the depletion of such resources, which would be suicidal under the present circumstances of increased competition for both good and paying students. It is our responsibility to defend the right of our students to these resources. Letting outsiders take courses may have beneficial effects for class dynamics but only within very carefully set limits.

The Pro-Rector said that one student can take only one two-credit course and the Rector decides whether the tuition fee is waived for a specific student or not.

*Kis Janos proposed that the outgoing Senate ask the new Senate, for which the elections are running now, to monitor the access of CEU courses by outside students and to make special regulations in case it is necessary. The Senate members unanimously endorsed the resolution proposed by Janos Kis.*

*The Senate members also endorsed with one abstention the "Revisions to CEU regulations regarding exams", document which was submitted to the Senate members.*

## 6. Other business- Babes -Bolyai text

Liviu Matei informed the Senate members that he learned that the two Hungarian academics in question have not been fired, or not yet. The Senate and the management of Babes-Bolyai are still considering making such a decision. A new text has now been submitted for the Senate's approval:

*“Members of the Senate of Central European University learned from press reports that the Senate and the management of Babes-Bolyai University are considering to discontinue the contracts of two academics for attempting to place plaques with Hungarian inscriptions next to the Romanian ones in several buildings the University. It appears to us that such a decision would be against the principles of academic freedom and of respect for cultural diversity, which are shared by both our universities. We do acknowledge that we may not know all the relevant details of the situation. However, if the press reports were correct, the CEU Senate collegially urges the Senate and the leadership of Babes-Bolyai University to look for a solution that would avoid any retaliatory action against the two academics. We hope that in this way Babes-Bolyai University will prove once again its authentic commitment to and respect for the values of academic freedom and cultural diversity.*

*Members of the Academic Senate of Central European University”*

Eva Fodor and Judit Bodnar expressed their disagreement regarding the protest and the formulation of text. Tibor Varady proposed one modification in the text, so that the last paragraph should read: *“However, if the press reports were correct, the CEU Senate collegially urges the Senate and the leadership of Babes-Bolyai University to look for a solution that would avoid any retaliatory action against the two academics, thus re-affirming Babes-Bolyai University's authentic commitment to and respect for the values of academic freedom and cultural diversity”*. With this change the text has been endorsed by the Senate members with one abstention.