

**Minutes of an extraordinary
ACADEMIC SENATE
Monday, 13 March 2006, 12.00-2.00 PM**

Present: Yehuda Elkana (chair), Laszlo Matyas, Julius Horvath, Janos Kis, Howard Michael Robinson, Tibor Varady, Zdenek Kudrna, Liviu Matei (*ex-officio*)

Not present: Judit Bodnar, Eva Fodor, Diana Urge-Vorsatz

Invited: Allaine Cerwonka, Gabor Toka, Viola Zentai (point #4 of the agenda)

Minutes: Andrea Csele

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

2. Approval of validators

Julius Horvath and Zdenek Kudrna volunteered to validate the minutes.

3. Extension of the Senate's term

The Pro-Rector announced that a decision is needed regarding the mandate of the current Senate, which would expire, according to CEU's internal practice, at the end of the current academic year. However, under the new Hungarian Higher Education Law, a new Senate will have to be elected until the end of the calendar year. He proposed that the mandate of the current Senate be extended until Fall and elections be organized after the arrival of the 2006/2007 class. He explained that this would be necessary given that, for example, under the new Operational and Organizational Regulations just adopted by the Senate, the number of the student representatives would increase from one to three and it would be unfair for the newly enrolled students not to have the opportunity to elect the three new members –which would have been the case, had we decided to conduct Senate election in June instead of this coming Fall.

The proposal to extend the Senate's mandate until Fall 2006 was unanimously approved.

4. Proposals for two-year MA programs

The Pro-Rector explained that Hungarian legal regulations make it a condition for every university seeking to obtain and/or maintain accreditation to offer programs at two degree levels at least (BA, MA, or Ph.D.), and also to have a minimum number of degree programs accredited at each of the two levels. He explained that the new Hungarian Higher Education Law was drafted with a view to implement the Bologna model. As a consequence, it is now becoming possible to offer “proper” master's programs (the corresponding Hungarian term until now was “further education programs”), organized as two-year programs. CEU is on the forefront of this process in Hungary and several program proposals have been prepared accordingly.

In order to accredit a two-year MA program in Hungary, there are two steps to be followed:

- 1) work out the concept of a MA program, this is the “establishment” of the program, usually in a consortium of several universities
- 2) get the permit for starting a given MA program of a given institution

In order to speed up the accreditation process, many universities formed consortia where joint program-concepts are created.

In the case of CEU, the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (MAB) made a formal concession and they are willing to accept the establishment of the programs and the permit for starting together without delay –normally, universities can start two years after the establishment of the program. Once the Senate accepts these programs, the establishment documents are to be submitted to the MAB.

Tibor Varady mentioned that he was not in favor of any two-year MA programs. The Pro-Rector explained that the introduction of the new two-year MA programs is a necessity and it is a condition for a university to exist. The already existing one-year MA programs qualify for a master program only in the U.S. but not in Hungary. This is the reason to have the two-year MA programs accredited.

Zdenek Kudrna inquired about the financial implications resulting from the introduction of the new MA programs has on the students. The Pro-Rector specified that the same student allocations would be spread over the one-year and two-year MA students.

Answering to Janos Kis’ question related to the structure of the courses demanded by the Hungarian Accreditation Committee, Laszlo Matyas said that three types of courses are demanded: core mandatory courses, compulsory elective courses from a special field, and three elective courses. The departments should set the proportion of these requirements.

The Pro-Rector emphasized the importance of being part of a consortium, which means that in case the universities decide to be part of a consortium and accept the program title settled by the members (e.g.: MA in Economics), the procedure is somewhat easier.

For example, the MPP is part of the Economics Consortium, which contains seven sub-fields, one in the interdisciplinary sciences that MPP is part of.

The Rector thanked everybody for the huge work put in the elaboration of these documents.

The Pro-Rector specified that the reference in the document to the number of students is only illustrative.

The Senate members endorsed unanimously the six proposals for two-year MA programs but they did not vote on the restriction of the number of students enrolled.

Senate resolutions regarding Hungarian Accreditation

The Senate voted unanimously in for establishing the following a two-year MA programs including the curricula as it stands:

- 1, *Közgazdasági elemző Mesterszak (MA in Economics)*
- 2, *Nemzetközi Gazdasági Kapcsolatok Mesterszak (MA in Political Science and Public Relations)*
- 3, *Közgazdálkodás és Közpolitika Mesterszak (MA in Public Policy)*
- 4, *Társadalmi nemek tudománya (MA in Gender studies)*
- 5, *Politikatudomány mesterszak (MA in Political Science)*
- 6, *Összehasonlító történettudomány (Comperative Historical Studies)*

5. School of Historical Studies

The Pro-Rector proposed three changes to the document submitted:

- 1) the name of the school – to be changed to “School of History and Interdisciplinary Historical Studies”
- 2) no necessity to elect a dean of the school
- 3) there is no reason to create a new institution and revise the OOR

The Rector expressed his conviction that although the primary motivation of for the School was not fundraising, the new type of unit is more likely to do successful fundraising.

The proposals made by the Pro-Rector were approved and the document was unanimously endorsed with these changes.

6. IT Servies

The Pro-Rector briefed the audience about the work done by the Computer Executive Committee who prepared three reports about the restructuring of the IT services at CEU. This would be a longer process, the first step of which will be to appoint a Chief Information Technology Officer who will be asked to prepare a clear plan which may than include outsourcing part of IT-related activities, which will be a compromise between cost efficiency and maintaining good services. He also drew the attention to the fact that during the transition period there might be stoppages in the services.

At Janos Kis’ question whether the dismissal of the employees at the CEU Rt is not against the provisions of the Hungarian Labor Law, the Pro-Rector specified that the new CIO would offer new positions for some of the employees, while the others would receive three months salary supplement beyond what is required by the law.

He also called a meeting of the RT personnel and explained the situation to them. Lajos Bokros explained that the New Higher Education Law created a favorable situation for the Hungarian Universities and as a result CEU can get the title “KHT” (Public Utility Organization status), which means that CEU can get the real-estate portfolio as a donation from the Rt, facilitating thus the transition and eliminating the costs.

Howard Robinson expressed his concerns related to the outsourcing of IT- related activities, which might endanger the smooth operations at CEU. The Pro-Rector answered that measures need to be taken in order to optimize costs.