

Board of Governors, Tomas Bata University in Zlín
Minutes of 32nd Board Meeting
Held in Zlín on 13 October 2014

Present:

Ing. Eva Bartoňová, PaedDr. Alena Gajdůšková, Ing. Libor Láznička, Ph.D., Mr. Libor Lukáš, PhDr. Irena Ondrová, Ing. Michaela Šojdrová, Prof. Ing. Jaromír Veber, CSc.

Excused: Mrs. Sonja Bata, doc. Ing. Jiří Volf, CSc.

Also present, on behalf of Tomas Bata University in Zlín (hereinafter referred to as TBU):

Prof. Ing. Petr Sáha, CSc.	Rector of TBU
RNDr. Alexander Černý	Bursar of TBU

The following agenda was proposed for the 32nd meeting of the TBU Board of Governors (hereinafter referred to as “BG”):

Proposed agenda:

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Rector’s report on the state of the University and the strategy for the development of TBU in future**
- 3. Summarized budget of TBU**
- 4. Discussion on the Update of the Strategic Plan for Education, Science, Research, Development, Innovation, Art and Other Creative Activities at TBU for 2015**
- 5. Miscellaneous**
- 6. Termination**

Agenda Item 1) Opening

The meeting was opened by Ing. Láznička, Ph.D., Chairperson of the BG, who welcomed all members present. The proposed agenda of the 32nd Board meeting was approved without any comments. PhDr. Irena Ondrová was asked to verify the minutes of the 32nd meeting and agreed to do so.

Ing. Láznička introduced Prof. Veber, a newly appointed member of the BG, who replaced Ing. Kubíček, to the present Board members. After checking the resolutions adopted at the 31st meeting of the Board, the members stated that all tasks arising from resolutions adopted at the previous meeting of the Board had been fulfilled.

Agenda Item 2) Rector’s report on the state of the University and the strategy for the development of TBU in future

Prof. Sáha, Rector of TBU, presented the most important accomplishments of TBU achieved between the establishment of the University and the present time. Currently, the University is, as he said, stabilized and the educational infrastructure has almost been completed. TBU prepares the construction of the Educational Centre; the construction of the Centre of Polymer Systems is nearing completion. In the following period, a modernization of the buildings U1, U2 and U6 will take place.

As regards the number of students, TBU occupies a position around the middle of the rankings in comparison to other Czech public higher education institutions in the long term; the same applies to the international evaluation of R&D results. In future, TBU wants to focus on ensuring an increase in the indicators for international evaluation. Attention will be paid to the sustainability of projects funded by the Operational Programme R&D for Innovations – CPS and CEBIA - Tech. Support will be provided to

R&D and creative activities, transfer of results into practice and to intellectual property protection.

Discussion:

Ing. Lázníčka, Ph.D.: In evaluation rankings, TBU occupies positions around the middle. What is the difference between TBU and universities ranked higher?

Prof. Sáha: For specialized universities such as the Institute of Chemical Technology Prague, Czech Technical University in Prague, Brno University of Technology, which have their seats in big cities, it is easier to meet the individual indicators in technology and natural sciences. Regional higher education institutions of our kind educate graduates in specializations required by the local labour market (e.g. medical sciences, humanities, arts at TBU). These specializations do not produce such good results in research in spite of achieving economic prosperity.

Ing. Lázníčka, Ph.D.: Is there a chance for TBU to go up the rankings?

Prof. Sáha: Yes, there is, TBU faculties must learn to exploit their potential and use it for the evaluation. It will depend on the work of the management at TBU faculties.

PaedDr. Gajdůšková: Would greater participation of TBU in European projects help? Does TBU have leaders in these specializations?

Prof. Sáha: Yes, a whole number of teams has applied for funding from the Horizon project. Some of the teams lack conditions for a successful participation in the projects, e.g. medical specializations do not have the required conditions – there is no teaching hospital or a medical faculty in Zlín,

PaedDr. Gajdůšková: Would it be possible to teach courses focusing on medical specializations at a separate - new faculty?

Prof. Sáha: We would like to add more degree programmes focusing on medical specializations, e.g. a course in Paramedic Science, but we do not have the required staff resources at present.

Ing. Bartoňová: The role of TBU is extremely important in the region. Charles University and other big universities have an absolutely different position. A great deal of work has been done in Zlín.

Ing. Šojdrová: In Zlín, the maximum possible effort is made compared to what can be done at a university. She would like to express her gratitude. TBU should focus on talented students who leave the country to study at universities abroad, which is financially demanding. Students are attracted by personalities teaching at universities abroad. TBU should take this direction. It is the right thing to do that TBU puts a strong emphasis on science and research, but the educational role should not be underestimated. TBU must prepare for a new, demanding system of internal auditing.

Prof. Veber: The new version of the Higher Education Act is expected to introduce a new system of quality assurance for higher education institutions. Accreditations should be given for a period of 10 years, but to tuition in whole specialization areas, e.g. economics. It will be a difficult task for the HEIs – they will have to monitor their quality very carefully, as a withdrawal of an accreditation would have serious consequences for them. A new methodology of evaluation of R&D results is also in preparation as well as a call for proposals aimed to support international experts who could be employed in research centres in the Czech Republic.

L. Lukáš: He would also like to thank the Management of TBU for the work which they have done. In his opinion, the key areas for future activities of TBU are its attachment to the region and support of talented students. It is necessary to develop a system, to specify how to discover talent, motivate the prospective students' parents, inspire them to take pride in their region, cooperate with prospective employers.

Prof. Veber: The University should not be only a regional institution - it is necessary to differentiate: If the University has the capacity to reach the international level in some of the specializations pursued, then this chance should be used.

Agenda Item 3) Summarized budget of TBU

RNDr. Černý, Bursar of TBU, informed the Board members about the structure of funding of TBU divided according to the relevant groups of resources. Dr. Černý also presented the income and expense statement of TBU in 2013 in a detailed overview according to the individual types and the amount of resources spent since 2001.

Discussion:

Ing. Láznička, Ph.D.: He can understand that the structure of funding of a university is different to the structure of funding of an enterprise; nevertheless, he would like to be informed about the expected development, about the financial result of this year. Would it be possible to always present a comparison between the budget of the current year and the financial outlook until the end of the relevant year at the following meetings of the Board of Governors?

RNDr. Černý: He promised to prepare a presentation in the required form.

Prof. Veber: A slight modification in the funding of higher education institutions is in preparation and should be implemented next year. Dr. Černý has already received the relevant documents. The number of admitted students will be limited even more, but the total amount should remain the same. That means that the contribution per student will be increased.

Agenda Item 4) Discussion on the Update of the Strategic Plan for Education, Science, Research, Development, Innovation, Art and Other Creative Activities at TBU for 2015 (hereinafter referred to as "Update of the Strategic Plan of TBU"):

Prof. Sáha explained in detail the priorities of the Update of the Strategic Plan for 2014, which are the following:

1. Quality and relevance – The aim is to support talented students and increase the responsibility of TBU for the employability of graduates in the labour market.

Prof. Sáha: TBU focuses on the employability of its graduates with high intensity. It is the reason why the TBU Job Centre has been established. Recently, the unemployment of graduates has decreased; however, the problem does not cease to exist. Other aims to be fulfilled are accreditations of degree programmes at the relevant faculties, the extension of the validity of accreditations, or the accreditations of programmes and courses to be taught in English.

2. Openness – The aim is to increase the competitiveness of TBU in the international environment, improve the quality of cooperation with business and industry and strengthen the good reputation of TBU.
3. Effectiveness and funding – The aim is to increase the efficiency of activities carried out at TBU.

PhDr. Ondrová: On which date will the building of the Centre of Polymer Systems be opened?

RNDr. Černý: The construction, which is very demanding as regards the technological part, should be completed before the end of the calendar year. The end date of the project implementation is April 2015.

PhDr. Ondrová: Which building will be the seat of the Creative Centre?

Prof. Sáha: For the time being, the seat of the Creative Centre will be in the U11 building.

Resolution No. 1/32:

The TBU Board of Governors gave its consent to the Update of the Strategic Plan for Education, Science, Research, Development, Art and Other Creative Activities of Tomas Bata University in Zlín for 2015.

Out of seven Board members present, seven members voted for the Resolution No. 1/32.

Agenda Item 5) Miscellaneous

RNDr. Černý, Bursar of TBU, submitted a document to the Board of Governors concerning the planned purchase of a part of the land lot with a total area of 41m² situated under the U1 building – Faculty of Technology. A part of the ground plan of the U1 building is located on the above-mentioned neighbouring land lot owned by the Community Centre Ltd. and is permanently used by TBU in Zlín. In the past, this case was not legally dealt with. Therefore, the Community Centre Ltd. and the University have agreed to sell and purchase the relevant land. The document in question was submitted for approval to the Academic Senate of TBU in Zlín and discussed at the meeting of the AS held on 23 September 2014. At the next meeting of the AS of TBU in Zlín held on 7 October 2014, the documents were forwarded to the Economic Commission of the AS of TBU in Zlín. The TBU AS is expected to give its consent to the purchase at its meeting held on 14 October 2014. Afterwards, the document will be submitted to the TBU Board of Governors for electronic voting.

RNDr. Černý, Bursar of TBU, also informed the Board members about the intent of TBU to establish a real burden regarding three appliances of the distribution system – transformer unit substations situated in U1, U4 and U5 buildings. The owner and operator of the transformer unit substations is the company E.ON Distribution. Together with the agreements on the establishment of real burdens, a single-payment reimbursement will be arranged for. This document is expected to be submitted to the Board of Governors for approval approximately within 3 months. The Board members will be asked to cast an electronic vote.

The Board members gave their consent to the electronic voting to take place on both proposals.

Agenda Item 6) Termination

Ing. Láznička, Ph.D., Chairperson of the Board, terminated the meeting. The Board members wished Prof. Sáha a lot of success in the upcoming election of the Rector of TBU.

Zlín, on 13 October 2014

Minutes taken by: Mgr. Jana Brázdilová

Ing. Libor Láznička, Ph.D.
Chairperson of TBU BG

PhDr. Irena Ondrová
Verifier of the Minutes