

Board of Governors, Tomas Bata University in Zlín
Minutes of 43rd Board Meeting
Held in Zlín on 4 September 2020

Present:

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

Attending through video-conferencing: Thomas Archer Bata

Excused: Prof. Eva Jiříčná, doc. Jiří Volf, CSc.

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

Prof. Ing. Vladimír Sedlařík, Ph.D.	Rector
RNDr. Alexander Černý	Bursar
doc. Ing. Martin Sysel, Ph.D.	Chairperson of the TBU Academic Senate
Mgr. Jan Kalenda, Ph.D.	Vice-Rector for Quality Management

The following agenda was proposed for the 43rd meeting of the TBU Board of Governors (hereinafter referred to as “BG”):

Agenda:

1. Opening
2. Election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the TBU Board of Governors
3. Report on the execution of resolutions adopted at the last meeting
4. Discussion on modifications to the Statute of the TBU Board of Governors
5. Rector’s report on the state of the University
6. Amendment to the Internal Evaluation Report of TBU in Zlín
7. Discussion on the TBU Strategic Plan for the Period 21+ and on the Implementation Plan for 2021 of the TBU Strategic Plan for the Period 21+
8. Discussion on the TBU Institutional Plan for 2021
9. Miscellaneous
10. Closing

Agenda Item 1 – Opening

The meeting was opened by PaedDr. Alena Gajdůšková, Chairperson of the Board. She welcomed all members present and informed them about the agenda proposed for the 43rd Board meeting, which was approved by the Board members. Dr. Gajdůšková notified the members of the fact that all documents to be discussed by the Board had not been approved by the TBU Academic Senate as yet, therefore, the Board cannot approve of the said documents in today’s meeting. The documents will be approved later by electronic vote. Mr. Libor Lukáš, Deputy Chairperson of the Board, was asked to verify the minutes of the 43rd meeting and agreed to do so. 7 Board members attended the meeting (6 members were physically present and 1 member attended the meeting through video-conferencing), therefore, the Board constituted a quorum. Furthermore, Dr. Gajdůšková informed the Board members about Prof. Jaromír Veber having been reappointed as a member of the Board by the Minister of Education.

Agenda Item 2 - Election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the TBU Board of Governors

Names of members of the Election Committee were drawn from the ballot box, namely Ing. Bartoňová and L. Lukáš. The election of the Chairperson was the first to take place. PaedDr. Alena Gajdůšková was nominated as a candidate for the post of the Chairperson of the BG, and accepted

the candidacy. In a secret ballot she received 5 votes from all Board members present (1 vote was invalid, and T. A. Bata was not allowed, in compliance with the valid Statute, to participate in the election.)

Ing. Libor Láznička, Ph.D. was nominated as a candidate for the post of the Deputy Chairperson of the BG, and accepted the candidacy. In a secret ballot he received 5 votes from all Board members present (1 vote was invalid, and T. A. Bata was not allowed, in compliance with the valid Statute, to participate in the election).

Agenda Item 3 - Report on the execution of resolutions adopted at the previous meeting

Resolutions adopted at the previous meeting of the Board did not include any tasks not fulfilled as yet.

Agenda Item 4 - Discussion on modifications to the Statute of the TBU Board of Governors

The proposed alteration in the Statute of the BG has resulted from the coronavirus crisis; it is necessary to adapt to the current situation. In accordance with the alteration proposed, the TBU BG may hold online meetings in an emergency situation, and that by video-conference or teleconference, or by mixing virtual and physical participation of Board members (“mixed meeting”). Upon a proposal by the Board members, the wording was added saying that the election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the BG can also be organized by means of distance communication tools, and that both at online and mixed meetings. Subsequently, the Statute will be sent to the Ministry of Education for approval.

Resolution No. 1/43

The TBU Board of Governors expressed its consent to the intent to modify the Statute of the TBU Board of Governors with the aim of enabling the organization of online meetings.

Voting on Resolution No. 1/43

Out of 7 TBU BG members present, 7 members voted for the Resolution No. 1/43.

Agenda Item 5 - Rector’s report on the state of the University

In his presentation, Prof. Sedlařík, TBU Rector, besides other information, stated that the present number of students at TBU was 8,883; 4,073 students had enrolled so far for study in the academic year 2020/21. The number of international students admitted to study decreased to 60% compared to last year's numbers due to COVID 19 (number being continuously updated). The internal regulation “Standards Set for TBU Degree Programmes” has been updated, which implies an obligation to prepare a distance e-learning infrastructure for key course units. TBU has about 1,000 employees; 9 Associate Professors and 2 Professors have been newly appointed.

Furthermore, Prof. Sedlařík said that TBU succeeded in obtaining funding through international education and mobility projects Erasmus +KA 107 and Erasmus +KA2. In the THE World University Rankings, TBU is ranked among the top 40 universities established after 2000 and as the best Czech university in the areas of Business and Management/Accounting and Finance. He mentioned audits carried out, focusing on the evaluation of internal and external quality, he talked about significant accomplishments of students and employees as well as about cooperation with the Czech Academic City in Erbil. He informed in detail about TBU's activities during the period of the COVID pandemic.

Resolution No. 2/43

The TBU Board of Governors would like to thank the Management Board, students and staff of TBU for their handling of the situation during the coronavirus crisis. The BG appreciates that teachers and other university staff were able to ensure a continuation of studies for a majority of Czech and international students and, thus, ensure the continuity of the operation of TBU also after higher education institutions were reopened. Those who also deserve thanks

and appreciation are members of staff responsible for a rapid involvement of the University's technological capacities able to compensate for the lack of disinfectants and protective equipment, which really helped and strengthened the reputation of TBU not only in the region.

Voting on Resolution No. 2/43

Out of 7 TBU BG members present, 7 members voted for the Resolution No. 2/43.

Agenda Item 6 - Amendment to the Internal Evaluation Report of TBU in Zlín

Mgr. Jan Kalenda, Ph.D., Vice-Rector for Quality Management, informed the Board members about the contents of the Amendment. The Amendment to the Report of Internal Evaluation of Quality of Activities of TBU in Zlín is prepared annually and based on the Higher Education Act, with the aim of continuously monitoring key indicators of the quality of performance of TBU in Zlín and determining the necessary measures to be adopted during the 3 following years.

Dr. Kalenda pointed out, among other facts, that the number of students at TBU had stabilized around 9,000, the graduate unemployment rate was low – 2.2 %. The relatively high student dropout rate, especially in courses focusing on technology, is a problem. Therefore, TBU carries out a number of activities aimed to support unsuccessful students who are doing their best to complete their studies. However, TBU does not intend to reduce the level of demands placed on students. TBU also aims to ensure that students who graduate from a Bachelor's programme at TBU continue their studies in a follow-up Master's programme and do not transfer to another university or seek employment instead.

In future, TBU intends to increase the numbers of Professors/Associate Professors, and improve the quality of publication outputs. All of the mentioned with the aim of improving the quality of classes offered and of improving the competitiveness.

Discussion

The Board members asked:

- Whether TBU is gathering information about the plans and activities of students who have dropped out.

Not so long ago, due to a labour shortage in the Czech Republic, many students were tempted and either dropped out of the University or changed from full-time to the part-time mode of study. Other students are still trying to find out about their talents and decide to transfer to another degree programme or continue at another Faculty. In case of some of the Bachelor's courses carried out at TBU, there is no follow-up Master's programme offered in the same specialization, therefore, students continue their studies elsewhere. The effectiveness of study at TBU is similar to the situation at other universities. TBU carries out analyses of everything.

- Whether university teachers are motivated to lead students to successful completion of their study.

In cooperation with teachers, remedial classes, summer schools, etc. are organized in key course units (mathematics, English, etc.).

During the discussion, the Board members also

- thanked for the information provided about the Amendment and for the openness.
- suggested that TBU should discuss a more intense collaboration with the Zlín Regional Authority and the Municipality of Zlín, and offered their help.
- stated that the decrease in the number of students at TBU was not as significant as at other higher education institutions, and appreciated that TBU devoted careful attention to its students.
- asked whether, during the admission procedure, TBU was taking secondary school leaving certificate into account.

Prof. Sedlařík added that this type of analyses helps TBU Management Board find weaknesses and set aims to be pursued in future. TBU also seeks external evaluation of its activities, thus obtaining important feedback and supporting documents necessary for taking of strategic decisions.

Agenda Item 7 - Discussion on the TBU Strategic Plan for the Period 21+ and on the Implementation Plan for 2021 of the TBU Strategic Plan for the Period 21+

Prof. Sedlařík informed the Board members about five pillars, where priorities had been determined for the upcoming period. These are the following: A) Education, B) Research and R&D and creative activities, C) Internationalization, D) Third role of TBU in Zlín, and E) Human resources, funding, internal environment of TBU in Zlín and strategic management. The Strategy 21+ will be fulfilled by means of annual Implementation Plans.

Discussion

The Board members recommended that the University should reflect on possible ideas in the field of “national interest”. Prof. Sedlařík replied that some concrete activities had already been incorporated into projects.

Agenda Item 8 - Discussion on the TBU Institutional Plan for 2021

The TBU Board of Governors discussed the preparations of the TBU Institutional Plan 2021. IT structure has been modified in accordance with the prioritized aims set in the Strategic Plan formulated by the Ministry of Education for the area of higher education for the period from 2021 onwards and in accordance of the Strategy for Internationalization of Higher Education for the period from 2021 onwards.

Agenda Item 9 - Miscellaneous

Dr. Černý, TBU Bursar, informed the Board members about the projects related to the TBU infrastructure and planned to be implemented between 2020-2021, in particular the renovation and modernization of the University Assembly Hall. The result will involve a new layout of the hall including new technological equipment, a renovation of the lobby and of sanitary facilities. The completion of the project is expected in the summer of 2021. Preparations of a renovation of the oldest Residence Hall building located in Štefánikova Street in Zlín, have also been completed, with the aim of constructing a modern accommodation facility. As regards the U1 building (seat of the Faculty of Technology since 1969), a demolition of the current building and construction of a new building is the option being considered, with a design mirroring the neighbouring building - Laboratory Centre of the Faculty of Technology (U15).

Agenda Item 10 - Closing

Dr. Gajdůšková thanked all Board members, Mr. Bata included, for attending the meeting, and for re-electing her to hold the post of the Chairperson. In future, she would like to continue visiting TBU constituent parts, in particular the TBU research centres.

PaedDr. Alena Gajdůšková
Chairperson of TBU BG

Libor Lukáš
Deputy Chairperson of TBU BG
Verifier of the Minutes

Zlín, on 9 September 2020
Minutes taken by: Mgr. Jana Lutonská