

## STANDPOINT

About the concurs for professor of Mathematics in the Master's Faculty of  
The New Bulgarian University

The standpoint was drawn up on the basis of Order 3-PK-222/25.05.2023 of the Rector of the New Bulgarian University (NBU), in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB, the Regulations for the structure and activity of the NBU, the Ordinance on the development of the academic staff of the NBU.

The following candidates submitted documents for the competition:

1. Associate Professor Danail Stefanov Brezov, PhD
2. Associate Professor Dimitar Vladislavov Atanasov, PhD

### **I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University**

**Group of indicators A.** The two candidates have submitted a diploma for the educational and scientific degree "doctor" (50 т.).

**Group of indicators B.** At this point, both candidates present publications as equivalent to a monograph. Both applicants exceed the minimum requirements on this item. It should be noted that the articles included by Associate Professor D. Atanasov are thematically related and represent the development of a fundamentally new methodology in the field of cognitive ability assessment. Regarding this group of indicators, I rate the two candidates equally.

**Group of indicators Г.** Both candidates exceed the requirements in terms of the criteria under this point. Associate Professor Brezov declared publications collecting 441 points, although it is not clear whether all publications were not used in a previous procedure. Some of the publications predate this applicant's previous procedure. Associate Professor Atanasov declared in his self-assessment 8 publications. They have not been used in a previous procedure and they collect 267p. The subject matter of some of these publications is a continuation of the publications presented by the candidate under group B. In relation to this group of indicators, a certain advantage of Assoc.Prof. Brezov can be noted.

**Group of indicators Д.** In relation to this group of indicators, Assoc. Professor Brezov declared citations, collecting 216 points. Some omissions in the compilation of the citation list should be noted. For example, citations 4 and 6 of publication [8] are the same. However, the applicant may be considered to meet the requirements.

Assoc. Professor Atanasov states 77 citations, collecting 616 points. No discrepancies were found in the list. It should be noted that the majority of citations are to publications used in a previous procedure. However, they are of later date and were not used in a previous procedure.

Regarding the criteria on this point, I believe that the scientific and scientific-applied results of Associate Professor Atanasov have gained significantly greater popularity.

#### **Group of indicators E.**

In this group of indicators, Associate Professor Brezov declared participation in 6 national and one international project. No evidence (contracts) of his participation in the listed projects has been provided. Some of the projects precede a previous procedure. It is unclear whether they were used for him. However, the applicant can be considered to meet the requirements of the law under this point.

Associate Professor Atanasov declared his participation in 17 national and 5 international projects.

The international projects are with one organization - the National Assessment Center of Saudi Arabia. A declaration as well as a contract from this organization proving his participation has been provided. The national projects in which the candidate participated can be grouped into three groups. The first group is two projects under FNI. The candidate has not provided proof of his participation in them, except for citing them in one of the publications presented in the competition. The second group of projects are of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria, in which the candidate has participated both independently and through BAEME for which he provides the relevant assurances and contracts. The third group of projects are with UNICEF-Bulgaria. His participation in them is established through the letter provided by the organization. For three of the projects, the applicant did not provide proof of his participation. Regarding project 1, the purpose of which is to select a screening test, the applicant has provided a copy of the home page of the produced product. The candidate's name is listed in the test authors, so his participation in this project can be confirmed.

Two of the projects for which there is no evidence are with European funding and the beneficiary NBU, it can be reasonably assumed that the applicant participated in them, as long as the documents for the procedure have been checked by the institution.

In conclusion, regarding this group of indicators, a significant advantage of Assoc. Atanasov's results can be noted.

The following groups of indicators are according to the regulatory requirements of the NBU.

#### **Group of indicators Ж.**

With regard to this group of indicators, Associate Professor Brezov did not submit a clear statement of activities on the individual points of the group. He presented two scholarly journalistic translations, he declared the development of curricula, participation as an organizer and lecturer in international summer schools and conferences. This gives reason to conclude that he has professional applied skills.

Assoc. Professor Atanasov states in this group 85 points. They are based on the presence of a research program, participation in a project other than those presented in indicator E. The development of several software packages that find application in the practice of research organizations and Ministry of Education and Science. His participation in

the development of the programs at the Dept. "Informatics" in NBU should also be taken into account.

In relation to this group of indicators, Assoc. Prof. Atanasov has an advantage.

### **Group of indicators 3.**

According to the attached reference, Assoc. Professor Brezov has developed author's teaching materials, consulted doctoral students and prepared students.

Assoc. Professor Atanasov developed original teaching materials for 6 courses at NBU, he was the graduate supervisor of several graduates at the bachelor's and master's level. He supported the scientific development of students. One graduate is currently a doctoral student at the Dept. "Informatics" with the candidate's supervisor. His works were presented at several forums for young scientists, where they received awards.

I believe that with regard to this criterion, the results of Assoc. Prof. Atanasov exceed those of Assoc. Prof. Brezov.

### **Group of indicators II.**

Assoc. Prof. Brezov has not declared holding administrative positions.

Prof. Atanasov is a member of the Academic Council of the NBU, the Faculty Council of the School of Graduate Study of the NBU and committees of the NBU administration. Since 2020, he is the head of the department "Informatics" of the NBU.

## **II. Research (creative) activity and results**

The publications submitted by the two candidates to the procedure could be assessed as similar in quality. A significant difference between the two candidates can be seen in the response that their results receive in the form of citations and applications in practice. Assoc. Prof. D. Atanasov has significantly more citations and the results of his research find a number of applications in practice. He has developed application software based on his theoretical research.

## **III. Teaching activity**

Regarding the educational activity, both candidates have relevant experience.

The teaching activity of Associate Professor D. Atanasov is significantly greater. Over the years, he has led over 20 different courses within the NBU. It should be noted that the courses conducted by him are not only within the "Informatics" department, some of them can be considered as interdisciplinary and some courses are conducted in English in the relevant programs of the NBU. Within an academic year, he has over 500 students.

## **IV. Administrative and public activity**

Associate Professor Danail Brezov has not provided evidence of such activity.

Associate Professor D. Atanasov actively participates in the NBU administration and is a member of several bodies of the university's academic management. He has participated in numerous projects of non-governmental organizations.

#### **V.) Personal impressions about candidates**

I have no personal impression about Assoc. Prof. Danail Brezov. My personal impressions about Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Atanasov are perfect. I know Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Atanasov more than 10 years. He participated in different research projects in our Department. I estimate his interdisciplinary schooling very high.

#### **VI. Мнения, препоръки и бележки по дейността и постиженията на кандидата**

#### **Conclusion**

From the observations made on the work of the two candidates, I arrange them in the following descending order

1. Associate Professor Dimitar Vladislavov Atanasov, PhD
2. Associate Professor Danail Stefanov Brezov, PhD

Based on the presented scientific works, their importance and the scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to propose Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Vladislavov Atanasov to occupy the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education: 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and Informational Technologies; professional direction: 4.5. Mathematics at NBU.

Sofia, 7.08.2023

The standpoint is written by:

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