

Tropical Agrobiography and Bioresource Management Doctoral Degree Board Meeting Report 24. 3. 2023

Meeting of the ATS Doctoral Degree Board took place on 24th March 2023
The following members of the Board were present.

Present members:	prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D. prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D. RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D. doc. Ing. Jaroslav Havlík, Ph.D. Ing. Martin Kulma, Ph.D. Ing. Olga Leuner, Ph.D. prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D. doc. Tersia Needham, Ph.D. prof. Mgr. Ing. Markéta Sedmíková, Ph.D.
Guest:	Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph. D.
Apologies:	doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D. doc. RNDr. David Honys, Ph.D. doc. Ing. Pavel Klouček, Ph.D. prof. Lukáš Kratochvíl, Ph.D. prof. RNDr. Irena Valterová, CSc.
Secretary:	Mgr. Martina Gregorová
Minute taker:	Ing. Barbora Motýlová

Programme of TABM and ATS Doctoral Degree Board 24. 3. 2023

- 1) Opening (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.)
- 2) Reports from the attestations of PhD students from February 2023 (heads of individual departments)
- 3) Approval of methodologies of PhD students of the 1st year
- 4) Miscellaneous:
 - a) New Dissertation Topics
 - b) Proposal of New Supervisors of Dissertation Thesis
 - c) Report from the evaluation of TABM study programme
- 5) Conclusion

1) Opening

The Chairwoman prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D., opened the TABM Doctoral Degree Board meeting by greeting all members. Then, she reminded what was done at the last DDB meeting and reported on PhD students that were recently admitted to studies starting in the next academic year 2023/2024.

2) Reports from the attestations of Ph.D. students from February 2023 (heads of individual departments)

Prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D., Department of Crop Sciences and Agroforestry:

Attestations took place on 25th of January 2023 and they concerned 51 Ph.D. students.

15 students are interrupted

14 students were recommended to continue their studies

17 students were recommended to continue with the admonition

4 students suspend their studies

1 student (Petr Pudil) was terminated, as he was not fulfilling requirements and he was not even in contact with his supervisor.

Doc. Tersia Needham, Ph.D., Department of Animal Science and Food Processing

Attestations took place on the 31st of January 2023 and they concerned 30 Ph.D. students.

22 students were recommended to continue their studies

4 students interrupted their studies

4 students terminated their studies

6 new students

Prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D., Department of Sustainable Technologies:

1 student (Tereza Beránková) is recommended to continue in studies

Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D., Department of Economics and Development:

1 student (Irene Francis Mbouwe) is recommended to continue with the admonition

3) Approval of methodologies of Ph.D. students of the 1st year

Aremu Tolulope Sabainah – accepted (but it is recommended to better specify the species of blue lupine, as there are more species with this name)

Corvino Roberto – accepted

Dutta Adrish – recommended improving formatting, deleting the numbering of lines, removing subchapter hypothesis and putting the text into an introduction, formulating a research question, or formulating a testable hypothesis. Will be accepted after this amendment

Sutanto Kevin Damianus – recommended rewriting the hypothesis. After rewriting, it will be accepted

Gupta Neha – recommended improving the formatting – removing comments, making references consistent, removing the numbering of references, and respecting the given reference style. After rewriting it will be accepted.

Haile Eden Fasika – accepted

Kavanová Veronika – accepted

Opoku Peseu Prince – recommended to rework it, referencing style is wrong. Will be accepted after this amendment.

Shanthakrishnan Divyadharshini – few inconsistencies in references, after improving references it will be accepted

Vukelić Mara - accepted

Reta Merewa Melese – still missing the final version

Sahu Archita – submitted with delay, not approved by opponent yet

Tesfay Ftsum Gebreyohannes - did not submit

4) Miscellaneous:

a) New Dissertation Topics

A new topic for dissertation theses was proposed.

Supervisor: Johana Rondevaldová

Topic: Green methods for extraction of nutrients and bioactive components from traditional plant-based foods, food products and beverages

All agreed that topic is accepted.

b) Proposal of New Supervisors of Dissertation Thesis

Ing. Radim Kotrba, Ph.D. was proposed as new supervisor for dissertation thesis. New supervisors need to be approved by scientific board, but first they need to be agreed and proposed by doctoral degree board. Everyone agreed that he should be proposed to the scientific board as a new supervisor.

c) Report from the evaluation of TABM study programme

Jiří Černý presented retrospective info about Ph.D. students from last year. The success rate of finishing PhD studies is 40 % the at faculty level. Out of 115 PhD students, 69 were unsuccessful, 46 were successful. TABM success rate is 48%. Many students are finishing in the fifth year. These students are studying long, but sadly, they are not successfully finishing anyway. The full report is an annex to this report.

After discussion among members, Prof. Pavla Hejcmanová mentioned that faculty should focus more on the initial motivations of PhD students to engage in PhD studies, and then on maintaining the motivations throughout the whole studies.

Apart from the above-mentioned points, several other things were discussed:

There is a high amount of students (around 1/3) not able to fulfil the conditions within the timeframe given by the Dean's directive for attestations. Consequently, the main reason for interruption of PhD studies is waiting for publishing papers. In general, data are good, but the issue is mostly related to writing, finishing, and submitting it. One of the important points was that students could not proceed due to waiting for their supervisors (overloaded by duties). This raised questions about the number of PhD students per supervisor and we agreed to make an analysis and report for the next DDB meeting. Recommendations of the accreditation office (i.e. 5 PhD students per supervisor) and potential risks of a high number of students per supervisor were reminded. It was recommended to encourage more experts to become supervisors and divide students among them. It was also discussed if collaboration with other institutions might help, but it may bring many difficulties like whether they want to have whole administrative responsibility and it may also be complicated for students. Supervisors should be aware of their capacity and take it into consideration during the admission procedure when accepting students. It is their responsibility not to be overloaded and to have enough time for their students. Too many overloaded supervisors may cause a problem for the whole programme.

The admission procedure was mentioned again. Dates of admission procedure were briefly discussed, if only two rounds with spring and summer dates. But it may be complicated for foreigner students to get visa and move to the Czech Republic on time. It was discussed if they can be enrolled next year.

In the last round of admission procedure there were 12 candidates. 9 were accepted, 6 for daily studies and 3 for distance studies.

Agreement between our faculty and Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the was mentioned.

Conclusion

The chairwoman prof. Pavla Hejcmanová thanked to all the present members and closed the meeting of Doctoral Degree Board.

In Prague, 24th March 2023


prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.
Chairperson of DDB TABM