



THE OMBUDSMAN FOR ACADEMIC ETHICS AND PROCEDURES OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

DECISION

REGARDING VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC ETHICS AND PROCEDURES IN THE FACULTY OF POLITICS AND MANAGEMENT AT MYKOLAS ROMERIS UNIVERSITY

15 May 2015 No. SP-12

Vilnius

The **Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania** (hereinafter – Ombudsman), <...> examined the complaint of U.M., the student¹ of Mykolas Romeris University (hereinafter – applicant, student) regarding possible violations of academic ethics and / or procedures by T. Sudnickas and V.G., the members of the Qualification Commission for Defence of Final Theses of Master Programmes of Public Administration, Management and Business Administration, Management, Management of Human Resources Study Fields of 2014-2015 Study Year (hereinafter – commission) in the Faculty of Politics and Management at Mykolas Romeris University (hereinafter – MRU) during the defence of the final master`s thesis in the Faculty of Politics and Management at MRU on 17 December 2014, received in the Office of Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania on 9 February 2015, and the submitted material and **determined that:**

The applicant in his complaint to the Ombudsman indicated that he was defending the final master`s thesis of the Tourism Sector Management Programme in the Faculty of Politics and Management at MRU on 17 December 2014.

<...>

The applicant submits a complaint regarding possible violations of academic ethics and / or procedures by the Commission members T. Sudnickas and V.G.

<...>

The applicant in his complaint also considers if A. Monkevičius, then Dean of the Faculty of Politics and Management at MRU had the right to publish the score of the final master`s thesis of the applicant in one web portal where he commented on the publicly given opinion of the applicant on the defence of the final master`s thesis.

<...>

The assessment of learning outcomes at MRU is based on the principles provided for in the clause 5 of the Procedure: validity, reliability, clarity, usefulness, impartiality and transparency. The principle of clarity is based on the fact that “assessment system must be informative and equally understandable for assessors and the assessed” (the clause 5.3). The principle of transparency is based on the fact that „assessment must be based on a set of criteria and procedures agreed in advance and its results must be made available for inspection” (the clause 5.6). The principle of impartiality is

¹ Student (applicant, resident) in the text of the Ombudsmen`s resolution is given as a noun of masculine gender without linking it to the sex of the student, applicant

based on the fact that „methods of assessment used must be equally appropriate for all persons assessed” (the clause 5.5).

<...>

In accordance with the mentioned principles of the assessment of learning outcomes and in view of the above, it should be stated that:

1. The Qualification Commission for Defence of Final Theses of Masters Programmes of Public Administration, Management and Business Administration, Management, Management of Human Resources Study Fields of 2014-2015 Study Year in the Faculty of Politics and Management at MRU violated the principles of clarity and transparency set forth in the procedure for the assessment of learning outcomes at Mykolas Romeris University by presenting in the Minutes not comprehensive data on the defence and the assessment of the final master`s thesis of the applicant;

2. T. Sudnickas, the member of the aforementioned commission and the deputy chairperson of the commission, by applying different methods of assessment to the assessed during the defence of final theses, i.e. while assessing the final theses of the students, being the supervisor of the latter, violated the principle of impartiality set forth in the procedure for the assessment of learning outcomes at Mykolas Romeris University.

The point 6.7 of the Ethics Code of Mykolas Romeris University approved by the Resolution No. 1SN-44 of the Senate of Mykolas Romeris University on 5 April 2007 sets forth that a member of MRU community undertakes “not to disclose information on academic assessments of a student and disciplinary actions imposed on other persons without special grounds (a student`s consent, legal grounds, benefit for a student or anticipated damage to others)”.

During the complaint examination it was established that A. Monkevičius, then Dean of the Faculty of Politics and Management at MRU, while commenting the publicly given opinion of the applicant on the defence of the final master`s thesis in a web portal disclosed the score of the final master`s thesis of the applicant.

In view of the above and in accordance with the point 6.7 of the Ethics Code of MRU it should be stated that A. Monkevičius, then Dean of the Faculty of Politics and Management at MRU, by disclosing information on the academic assessment of the student without his consent violated the point 6.7 of the Ethics Code of MRU.

<...>

The Ombudsman decided:

To inform Mykolas Romeris University and the Ministry of Education and Science about the Ombudsman`s decision in which violations of study ethics and procedures have been established.
