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

DECISION
REGARDING OUTCOMES OF COMPETITION FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES OF PHILOLOGY STUDY FIELD AND DEFENCE OF MASTER`S THESIS AT VYTAUTAS MAGNUM UNIVERSITY

25 June 2015 No. SP-16
Vilnius

The Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – Ombudsman), <...> examined the complaint of Daiva Kazlauskaitė (hereinafter – applicant), received in the Office of Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – Office of Ombudsman) on 13 November 2014, examined and assessed the material submitted by Vytautas Magnum University (hereinafter – VMU), and **determined that:**

The applicant appeals against the decisions of the Joint Committee for Doctoral Studies of Philology Study Field of 2014 and the Rector of VMU Z. Lydeka.

The applicant in her complaint requests the Ombudsman "to order to cancel the decision and admit [D. Kazlauskaitė] to study in a state financed study place at the Institute of the Lithuanian Language" and "to order the Rector of VMU Z. Lydeka to cancel the decision regarding the non-defended final thesis and issue the diploma to [D. Kazlauskaitė]" (information provided in the angle brackets is ours).

<...>

Upon examining the information submitted by VMU on 16 June 2015 – assessments of the applicant`s motivation interview, scientific research project by the Committee members and "Assessment of the Contestant" according to the chosen topics of "Corpus Linguistics and Language Technologies" and "Social and Psychological Linguistics", it should be stated that in accordance with the requirement set forth in the clause 4.4 of the Procedure the applicant was reasonably not allowed to pretend to doctoral studies.

With regard to the aforementioned and without questioning the validity of assessments of the Committee members (assessments of the motivation interview and the scientific research project (meeting of 08-09-2014), it should be stated that violations of procedures of admission of the applicant to the doctoral studies of philology study field according to the topics chosen by the applicant in accordance with the legal acts of VMU, regulating procedure for admission to the third study cycle of philology study field, have not been established.

<...>

<...> by the Rector`s Order on 26 August 1999 D. Kazlauskaitė was "deleted from the list of the master students as the one who had not defended her master`s theses. In accordance with the clause 14.9 of "Regulation of Studies" of Vytautas Magnum University students who were expelled from the university for under-achievement or suspended their studies for longer than 2 year

period, may get back to studies only by entering the first year of the university according to the common procedure".

The clause 14.18 of the Regulation of Studies of VMU (approved on 11-10-2001) sets forth that "students, who fulfilled the study programme but failed to prepare or defend final bachelor`s or master`s theses, are deleted from the students lists. They are entitled to prepare and defend diploma theses anew not later than after two years and shall have to pay for the studies (for the corresponding volume)". The applicant submitted her application to allow to defend her master`s thesis to the Rector of VMU on 13 September 2002, i.e. more than 2 years from the date of failure to defend of her master`s theses (meeting of 22 June 1999).

With regard to the aforementioned and without questioning the validity of assessment and conclusions of the Commission for Defence of Master`s theses (Minutes of the Commission for Defence Master`s theses No. 12 of 22-06-1999), it should be stated that violations of the procedures of deleting the applicant from the master students list on 26 August 1999 and non-granting of the consent to prepare and defend master`s thesis anew in accordance with the legal acts of VMU, regulating the procedure of studies, have not been established.

The Ombudsman decided:

To declare the applicant`s complaint unfounded.

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