



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

## DECISION REGARDING ACTIONS OF LECTURERS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CENTRE OF HEALTH AND SPORT OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

22 December 2014 No. SP-17

Vilnius

The **Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania** (hereinafter – Ombudsman), <...> examined the complaints of graduate students of the Applied Physical Activity of the Centre of Health and Sport of Vilnius University (hereinafter – applicants) received in the Office of Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania on 26 March 2014 and on 07 April 2014 and the submitted material, as well as explanations and material submitted by R. Zilniskiene, director of the Centre of Health and Sport of Vilnius University and Assoc. Prof. Dr. L. Samsoniene, and evaluation conclusions of the study programme “Applied Physical Activity” of Vilnius University prepared by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education and **determined that:**

The applicants brought the complaint to the Ombudsman on 26 March 2014 regarding unsuitable coordination of the programme by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ramune Zilinskiene, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Laimute Samsoniene and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Laima Galkute, coordinators of graduate studies of the Applied Physical Activity of the Centre of Health and Sport of Vilnius University (hereinafter– SSC) in violation of the ethical and procedural principles, and on 07 April they brought complaint about possible violations of the Code of Academic Ethics of Vilnius University committed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ramune Zilinskiene, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Laimute Samsoniene and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Laima Galkute, coordinators of graduate studies of the Applied Physical Activity of SSC.

<...>

*The actions of SSC Director R. Zilinskiene contradicted to:*

1) *the paragraph 2.3 and subparagraph 2.3.2 of the Code of Academic Ethics of Vilnius University, which state that “The interrelations of community’s members shall be based on the principles of collegiality and academic solidarity, and directed to ensure the quality of studies and creative atmosphere <...>”; and that “academic ethics is violated when the disagreements between the colleagues <...> result in damage for students”;*

2) *the paragraph 2.4 and subparagraph 2.4.1 of the Code of Academic Ethics, which state that “Each member of the University’s community has to respect common interests of the University and contribute as much as possible to the implementation of the set educational and research goals <...>” and “to follow the University’s strategy for studies and scientific researches, and to give the constructive criticism first of all the members of the University’s community”;*

3) the clause 3 of the Annex 2 to the Regulation of Study Programmes of Vilnius University that states that “The description of the subject (module) <...> shall be approved by the department (centre) and verified by the committee of certain study programme. The verified descriptions shall be posted on VU information system following the procedure set at University.”

The actions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. L. Samsoniene contradicted to:

1) the paragraph 2.3 and subparagraph 2.3.2 of the Code of Academic Ethics of Vilnius University, which state that “The interrelations of community’s members shall be based on the principles of collegiality and academic solidarity, and directed to ensure the quality of studies and creative atmosphere <...>”; and that “academic ethics is violated when the disagreements between the colleagues <...> result in damage for students”;

2) the paragraph 2.4 and subparagraph 2.4.1 of the Code of Academic Ethics, which state that “Each member of the University’s community has to respect common interests of the University and contribute as much as possible to the implementation of the set educational and research goals <...>” and “to follow the University’s strategy for studies and scientific researches, and to give the constructive criticism first of all the members of the University’s community”;

3) the clause 3 of the Annex 2 to the Regulation of Study Programmes of Vilnius University that states that “The description of the subject (module) <...> shall be verified by the committee of certain study programme.”

The actions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. L. Galkute contradicted to the paragraph 2.4 and subparagraph 2.4.1 of the Code of Academic Ethics, which state that “Each member of the University’s community has to respect common interests of the University and contribute as much as possible to the implementation of the set educational and research goals <...>” and “to follow the University’s strategy for studies and scientific researches, and to give the constructive criticism first of all the members of the University’s community.”

<...>

**The Ombudsman decided:**

1. To inform the Centre of Health and Sport of Vilnius University, Vilnius University and the Ministry of Education and Science about the violations of academic ethics and procedures determined by the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures.

2. To make the violations of academic ethics and procedures determined by the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures public.

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