



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

## DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINT OF RASA POCEVICIENE AGAINST SIAULIAI UNIVERSITY

29 August 2014 No. SP-8

Vilnius

The **Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania** (hereinafter – Ombudsman), <...> examined the complaint of R. Pocevičienė (hereinafter – applicant) received in the Office of Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania on 04 June 2014 and the submitted material, and **determined that:**

On 08 May 2013 the assessment of the applicant – senior lecturer in the Department of Education Science of the Faculty of Education Science of Siauliai University R. Pocevičienė for the tenure and the post of professor – had to be held. On 07 May 2013 the deed “Application to take into account possible plagiarism, violations of the Code of Ethics and research competences of R. Pocevičienė during assessment for the post of professor” of Professor A. Kiseliovas from the Department of Training Systems of Siauliai University was submitted to the Commission of Assessment and Admission of Lecturers and Researchers of Siauliai University (hereinafter – DMDAPK). There Prof. A. Kiseliovas presents “critical insights” regarding series of methodical publications “Studying for Life” prepared according to the project “Implementation of the Model of Organization of Autonomous Studying (SMOM) as the form of untraditional (self)education directed to the education oriented to innovative solutions in the schools of Northern and Western Lithuanian schools” financed by the European social fund, one of the authors of which is the applicant. He indicates *possible* cases of plagiarism in these publications and describes thoroughly the management of the Department of Training Systems of Siauliai University and Council of the Faculty of Education Science by the applicant in 2006-2008.

When DMDAPK got familiar with the aforementioned deed of Prof. A. Kiseliovas, it suggested “to forward it to the Rector and not to consider the assessment of Assoc. Prof. Rasa Pocevičienė in that meeting”.

On 12 June 2013 the applicant was assessed for the tenure in the DMDAPK meeting. However she was not assessed for the office of professor because she “did not satisfy the qualification requirements” (DMDAPK Resolution No. 113). On 13 June 2013 the applicant addressed the commission in written asking to explain which requirements for the title of professor she did not satisfy. The DMDAPK chairman replied her in written on 19 June 2013 that following the clause 7 of the Regulations of Assessment and Competitions for the Posts of Research Workers of Siauliai University, “the DMDAPK decisions are passed by secret voting and by simple majority of votes” and that “<...> each DMDAPK member is free to decide and vote at his own discretion”.

<...>

On 28 June 2013 the Ethical Commission addressed the Rector at interim of Siauliai University Prof. D. Jurgaitis asking to form the commission of experts, which would provide conclusions and recommendations.

<...>

Upon completion of the analysis of methodical tools and following the determined facts, the commission of experts stated “the lack of correctness in the analyzed books”: “the violations of quotation rules have been encountered in all the books. The bibliographical list contains the sources, which are not quoted, or some sources are not listed; the incorrect references and long quotations are present in the text”.

Upon having assessed all the factual circumstances presented in the explanations of the publications’ authors, the Ethical Commission passed the decision in the meeting of 23 September 2013 that the authors, including the applicant, had not violated the Code of Ethics or other provisions.

During the meeting of 16 October 2013 the Senate took the conclusions of commission of experts into account and did not satisfy the applicant’s appeal.

The applicant appeals the decision of DMDAPK of 08 May 2013 to postpone the applicant’s assessment for the tenure until 12 June 2013, the decision of 12 June 2013 not to certify the applicant for the office of professor, complains about the decision of Siauliai University’s Senate of 16 October 2013 not to satisfy the applicant’s appeal regarding the decision of 12 June 2013 not to certify the applicant for the office of professor, and accuses the management of Siauliai University for hasty publication of plagiarism’s fact through media.

<...>

**The Ombudsman decided:**

1. To recommend:
  - 1.1. to revoke the DMDAPK decision No. 103 of 12 June 2013 “Regarding assessment for tenure”;
  - 1.2. to revoke the DMDAPK decision No. 113 of 12 June 2013 “Regarding assessment for the job”.
2. To inform Siauliai University and the Ministry of Education and Science about the persons, who were determined as having committed the violations of academic ethics and procedures by the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania.

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