



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

DECISION REGARDING VIOLATION OF ACADEMIC ETHICS COMMITTED BY THE LECTURERS OF SIAULIAI UNIVERSITY BRONIUS MASKULIUNAS AND DZULJETA MASKULIUNIENE

31 March 2015 No. SP-8

Vilnius

The **Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania** (hereinafter – Ombudsman), <...> completed the investigation regarding validity and lawfulness of business trips of Prof. Bronius Maskuliunas, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities of Siauliai University, Professor in the Department of Lithuanian Linguistics and Communication, and Prof. Dziuljeta Maskuliuniene, Head of the Department of Lithuanian Linguistics and Communication of the Faculty of Humanities of Siauliai University, to Bulgaria (Burgas city) from 28 April until 02 May 2014 and to Mexico (Mexico city) from 09 September to 19 September 2014, and **determined that:**

On 18 September 2014 the report “Regarding unjustified money embezzlement at Siauliai university” was received in the Office of Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – Office of Ombudsman). It was stated that Prof. B. Maskuliunas, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities of Siauliai University, Professor in the Department of Lithuanian Linguistics and Communication, and Prof. D. Maskuliuniene, Head of the Department of Lithuanian Linguistics and Communication of the Faculty of Humanities of Siauliai University went on business trips to Bulgaria (Burgas city) from 28 April until 02 May 2014 and to Mexico (Mexico city) from 09 September to 19 September 2014. It was also stated in the report that during the trip to Mexico B. Maskuliunas and D. Maskuliuniene took part in the 34th congress of children literature and culture organized by the IBBY Association and made a presentation “The Dilemma of Children’s Writer: Between the Commitment to Aesthetics (Art) and Society (Readers’ Community)” (agenda of the congress). It should be noted that Prof. D. Maskuliuniene is indicated as the “specialist of children literature”, while Prof. B. Maskuliunas was named as “specialist of the Lithuanian language” in the aforementioned presentation.

It is asked to learn whether B. Maskuliunas and D. Maskuliuniene had a reason to go on the aforementioned trips together and “what benefit could be brought to the University by two family members, who participated in the same event.”

<...>

According to the submitted material, Prof. B. Maskuliunas and Prof. D. Maskuliuniene applied the Fund of International Business Trips of Siauliai University to cover part of that business trip. The financing criteria of international business trips are defined in the Regulations of the Fund of International Business Trips of Siauliai University approved by the Rector at interim D. Jurgaitis on 03 June 2014. The clause 11 of the Regulations state the following: “The support shall be provided

when the author presents individual presentation or publication (if the presentation is prepared by 2 or more authors, only one shall be financed).”

<...>

<...> Prof. B. Maskuliunas and Prof. D. Maskuliuniene stated that in August 2014 the congress’ organizers sent them the programme of the event (“Parallel Sessions”), where only one presentation was entered – “Children’s Writer’s Dilemma: between a Commitment to Aesthetics (Art) and Society (Readers’ Community)”¹.

<...>

With regard to the fact that when Prof. B. Maskuliunas and Prof. D. Maskuliuniene received the information about only one presentation entered in the programme of the 34th IBBY congress, they did not undertake any actions to disclose the truth about the organizational changes of the congress and to have the financing of business trips to Mexico reconsidered, it should be stated that the behaviour of Prof. B. Maskuliunas and Prof. D. Maskuliuniene contradicts to the subparagraph 2.1.5 of the Code of Ethics of Employees and Students of Siauliai University that states that the lecturer and employee undertake “not to tolerate any cases, which could be related to <...> dishonesty <...>.”

The Ombudsman decided:

To inform Siauliai University and the Ministry of Education and Science about the Ombudsman’s decision.

¹ Online access: <http://www.ibbycongress2014.org/en/program/parallel-sessions.html> (viewed on 16/03/2015 for the last time)