



О P I N I A N

According to a competition for the occupation of the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Social Policy and Political Science", professional direction 3.4. "Social activities" for the needs of the "SPN" department, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, announced in SG no. 29 of March 29, 2023, with candidate associate professor Toshko Hristov Petrov

Member of the scientific jury: Professor Dr. Yancho Marinov Bakalov.

1. General characteristics of the candidate's research and applied scientific activity.

Associate Professor Toshko Hristov Petrov has successively passed through all levels of the academic hierarchy of the university teacher. He defended a doctoral dissertation and a dissertation for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences", he was elected as an "associate professor" at the Technical University - Varna in 2003. He participated in two national scientific projects financed by the Operational Program "Science and Education for Intelligent growth" in the period 2014-2020. He also participated in nine projects financed by the "Scientific Research Fund" of TU - Varna, being the head of six of them. The candidate participated in the competition with a habilitation thesis-monograph, which was peer-reviewed and published in 2022, as well as with 27 articles in scientific journals and reports at scientific conferences and other forums. Three of them were published in English. For co-authored publications, the candidate has submitted correct separation protocols. The works presented do not repeat the publications claimed by Associate Professor Petrov for other competitions in which he participated and their volume satisfies the requirements of the RASRB. His research interests cover a specific range of problems corresponding to the scientific

specialty of the competition, related to the prediction of the electoral behavior of Bulgarian citizens, game modeling in situational political analysis, as well as other modern technologies for political analysis applied in the 21st century.

2. Evaluation of the pedagogical preparation and activity of the candidate.

Associate Professor Toshko Petrov has over thirty-five years of experience as a teacher in a university. During that time, he worked on a basic employment contract at "N. Y. Vaptsarov" NA and in TU - Varna with full teaching employment. We have worked together for twenty years and I have immediate impressions of his pedagogical activity, my assessment is strongly positive. He has taught in bachelor's and master's programs in various university specialties. He actively participates in the forms of the European program for teaching mobility, has a perfect command of the Spanish language and has been a guest lecturer at universities in Spain and France. He was elected as a municipal councilor in the municipality of Varna. Associate Professor Petrov was the supervisor of five doctoral students, two of whom successfully defended their doctoral theses. In the period 2003 - 2021 was elected multiple times as head of the department, member of the Academic Council of TU - Varna, and vice-rector. His high level of pedagogical training allows him to conduct his assigned classes with students and doctoral students at the relevant scientific level. Three university textbooks have been published. He has strong abilities to organize and lead at the departmental and university level the process of accreditation of the specialties he teaches, as well as in the accreditation procedures at the institutional level.

3. Basic scientific and scientific-applied contributions.

I indicate, in my opinion, the significant scientific contributions that are the personal work of the candidate: A complex of game models is presented, developed by the candidate for finding optimal strategies for the operationalization of various situations from the political and social reality, characterized by high

complexity, by means of the Game Theory toolkit. A model is proposed for the theoretical understanding of social communities, formed as a result of the participation of citizens in the processes of personal construction of the main structures of political power, through voting. The theoretical basics of the electoral behavior of Bulgarian voters have been developed through forms of participation in the formation of political power, the peculiarities of voting, the ways of forming political orientations, etc. Four types of voting have been defined, based on certain traits of behavior in the political environment, characteristic of Bulgarian voters - celerational, value-rational, emotional (affective) and traditional. On this basis, the candidate has developed three main scales, through which the political choice is realized - ideological, value and situational. Applicable methods for the use of quantitative and expert methods and assessments in political decision-making and political analysis are presented, using the principle of optimality and the search for a satisfactory solution by solving multi-criteria tasks.

The choice of an optimal strategy for making specific political decisions by an informed expert group is justified. The mentioned contributions are largely protected by the monograph published by associate professor Petrov in 2022 - habilitation work, as well as by his other publications. I note the 17 scholarly citations I have found of the candidate's works over the past three years.

4. Significance of contributions for science and practice.

The results of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions have been implemented in the education of students of the OCS "Bachelor" and OCS "Master" from professional direction 3.4 Social activities in TU - Varna, as the main points of them have been included in the developed curricula for the academic disciplines, which guides the candidate for the academic position "Professor". Thus, Associate Professor Petrov contributes to the implementation of modern achievements and innovative practices in the education of students and

doctoral students from professional direction 3.4 "Social Activities". The scientific and scientific-applied contributions, as well as the main moments in the content of the four dissertations protected by the candidate for obtaining the ONS "Doctor" and the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" are used in the training of doctoral students in the doctoral program "Social Work" accredited in the "SPN" department , psychological research and social policy". Scientific-applied and methodical contributions contribute to the formation and professional development of a scientific and teaching school in the department. With his scientific and pedagogical activities for more than 35 years, associate professor Petrov is well known among scientific circles in our country.

5. Critical notes and recommendations.

I have no specific formal remarks and recommendations for the candidate's scientific works. I recommend him to intensify his publication activity in journals included in the reference list of the international database of a higher rank.

CONCLUSION The content and volume of the presented scientific works, one monograph - habilitation thesis, 27 articles and scientific reports, evidence of citations of his works, as well as three university textbooks, satisfy the legal minimum requirements for awarding the candidate the academic position of "Professor". The scientific and scientifically applied contributions of his work also meet the high basic requirements. I have not detected plagiarism in my submitted scientific works. Based on familiarization with the presented publications, their significance, the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it justified to propose Associate Professor Toshko Hristov Petrov to take the academic position of "Professor" in the professional direction 3.4 "Social Activities" under the specialty "Social Policy and Political Science".

26.06.2023

 JURY MEMBER;

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