

## OPINION

**Of:** Mariya Ivanova Neycheva, PhD, Professor of Economics at Burgas Free University

**Regarding:** participation in an open competition for filling up a vacancy for the title of Associate Professor in the professional field 3.8. Economics (Accounting and Financial Analyses) announced by the Faculty of Business Studies at Burgas Free University and published in the Bulgarian Official Journal, issue 23/22.06.2022

**Reason for the Opinion:** Order № JIC-135/17.05. 2022 issued by the Rector of Burgas Free University concerning endorsement of the Scientific Committee

**Qualified Candidates:** Galina Raykova Stoyanova, PhD

In the competition announced by Burgas Free University (BFU) for filling up the vacancy for the title of Associate Professor one Applicant has qualified: Galina Stoyanova, PhD. The present opinion is based on the content of the materials submitted by the candidate and their compliance with the legal requirements according to the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application as well as the Regulations regarding the development of academic staff at BFU.

### **I. Applicant's profile and compliance with the legal requirements**

Galina Stoyanova has acquired a Master degree in Finance and Credit and was qualified for Economist Insurer by Dimitar Tsenov Academy of Economics in the city of Svishtov in 1992. She also holds additional qualification in the field of Law as an Associate of Legal Authorities (1988-1990). In addition in 2011 she was certified in Financial Planning by the Institute of Graduated Financial Consultants. G. Stoyanova followed the Economics and Management (Industry) PhD program at the Faculty of Business Studies (FBS) at Burgas Free University (BFU) and acquired her PhD degree in 2018. Her thesis discusses the issues of Operational Controlling in the Insurance industry. The academic career of Dr. Stoyanova started immediately after her graduation from higher education at Dimitar Tsenov Academy of Economics initially and then at Angel Kanchev University of Ruse. She teaches courses in the field of Insurance predominantly. The development of courses in Insurance as well as Risk Management at the Faculty of Business and Management at the University of Ruse is her personal achievement in her early years in academia. Since 2016 Galina has been a part-time lecturer at BFU. She has proven herself as a leading lecturer of courses in Accounting and Insurance at the FBS and of two courses for continuing training of Insurance Brokers as well (Appendix 15). She has been working as part of the managerial bodies of a number of Insurance companies which has been her major occupation. Her prestigious and successful professional experience is helpful for supporting the relationship between academia and the business sector.

Compliance of Candidates' academic activity with the minimum national requirements for holding the academic title of Associate Professor

The specific minimum requirements regarding the teaching and scientific activity of the Candidates for the title of Associate Professor in the field of this open competition are presented in the Appendix 1 of the Regulations for the Application of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for the field of Social, Economic, Legal studies. The fulfillment of those requirements according to the reference materials submitted by the Candidates are displayed in table 1.

Table 1. Information for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for holding the title of Associate Professor

Groups of Indicators	Minimum required points *	Performance
A. Indicator 1	50	50
B. Indicator 2	-	-
C. Indicator 3	100	100
D. Sum of indicators form 4 to 10	200	200
E. Sum of indicators from 11 to 13	50	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>420</b>

\*According to the Regulations for the Application of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for the field of Social, Economic, Legal studies.

\*\*According to the references being submitted by the Candidates for reviewing.

Dr. Gtoyanova has published a book for habilitation (Stoyanova, G., Accounting models for management of acquisition activity in life insurance. Burgas Free Univeristy, 2022, ISBN 978-619-253-013-6). Her publication record (Appendix 5) comprises also a book on her PhD thesis, 12 articles/conference papers published in peer-reviewed journals or refereed joint works. She declares also 7 citations (Appendix 17). In accordance with the rules, full-text publications have also been presented as part of the application package. The total sum is 420 points (table 1) which fully satisfies the required minimum amount. The criteria for the different sub-groups of indicators (A to E) are fully covered as well.

*The abovementioned clearly indicates that Galina Stoyanova, PhD satisfies the quantitative criteria for holding the academic title of Associate Professor according to the legal requirements.*

Assessment of supplementary indicators regarding teaching and research activity according to Art. 50(3) of the Rules and Regulations of the Academic Staff Development at BFU

The Candidate has provided evidence for fulfillment of additional indicators for holding a position of Associate Professor imposed by the FBS. The textbook (Stoyanova,

G. Insurance Frauds, Burgas Free University, Burgas, 2022, ISBN 978-619-253-015-0) is designed for master students following a course in Insurance Frauds which she is currently teaching. The Applicant has also indicated participation in 3 national/international projects (see, also Appendix 12). The requirement for no less than 10 publications above those submitted as part of the procedure for the award of the doctoral degree of which at least 3 publications abroad including those in international conference proceedings is satisfied as well. Additionally she has been a scientific advisor of two graduates of the FBS's master program in Finance (Appendix 15). The criteria for a teaching load of at least 1000 academic hours is partially satisfied as she has worked out 413 hours. However, in this specific case I do not consider this quantitative requirement to be essential since it depends on the ability of the academic institution to secure such a workload for the Candidate. The successful 6-year activity of Dr. Stoyanova at the FBS confirms that she has taken her place as part of the FBS' academic staff and is well acquainted with the study process at the university.

## **II. Applicant's contributions and overall evaluation of the application**

The scientific contributions of Dr. Stoyanova are linked to the topic of the present competition. They are predominantly in the field of controlling, accounting practices and models for Insurance Management. I accept the contributions being declared by the applicant (Appendix 11). Moreover, the Candidate fully meets the high standards of university teaching. Currently she is a leading lecturer of four master classes in BFS's academic programs in Economics, Administration and Management. Dr. Stoyanova is an active user of BFU Moodle platform. Her courses designed for distant learning is very well developed rich in content and include various resources which encourage student interest and activity thus satisfying the contemporary standards for blended and online-based learning in higher education. The theoretical background and the long-standing managerial experience of the Candidate in the field of Insurance allow for scientific activity and student practical knowledge in this part of the Economic science specifically to be enhanced.

In addition to all said above I should note that I am impressed by Dr. Stoyanova's truly responsible attitude towards her university work, by her high motivation for academic advance as well as her purposefulness. Taking into account her professional career outside academia she would contribute for the practical aspect of the master programs to be further strengthened and enhanced in response to the requirements of the modern higher education.

## **III. Notes and recommendations**

In view of the quantity and the quality of the submitted materials, I could not raise any critical notes or comments to the Applicant. I would just recommend her to expand her publication activity abroad specifically the scientific works in referenced international issues which would allow her to promote her achievements among the international scientific community.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Taking into account that the minimum national requirements have been fully met the Applicant and her publication record is in compliance with the respective rules and regulations but also in view of her overall academic and scientific achievements so far I express my firm belief that Dr. Galina Raykova Stoyanova should be awarded the title of Associate Professor in professional field 3.8. Economics (Accounting and Financial Analyses) at the Faculty of Business Studies at Burgas Free University.

15.07.2022

Member of the Scientific Committee:

/Prof. M. Neycheva/