

STATEMENT

by **Assoc. Prof. Yordanka Stoyanova Peicheva, PhD**

member of the academic jury of competition for the occupation of the academic position of "Professor" in: higher education area - 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field - 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in... (Methods of Music Teaching), announced by "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen in the State Gazette, issue 79 / 08.10.2019

I. Contest details

The competition for the occupation of the academic position of "Professor" at the "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen by: Higher Education Area 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in... (Methods of Music Teaching), published in the State Gazette, issue 79 / 08.10.2019 is in accordance with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen for the acquisition of academic degrees and occupation of academic posts.

Only one candidate, **Assoc. Prof. Stefan Panayotov Ruskov, PhD**, participated in the competition.

II. Applicant details

Assoc. Prof. Stefan Panayotov Ruskov graduated with a degree in Music Pedagogy - Music Teacher, Accordion Teacher at the Music and Pedagogy Higher Education Institute, Plovdiv in 1984.

From 1984 to 2001 he has worked as: music teacher and lecturer in music at High School with Foreign Language Teaching "N. Y. Vaptsarov", Shumen; lecturer in accordion at the "Nancho Popovich" High School of Mathematics, Shumen and in "Exarch Joseph" Foreign Language High School, Razgrad; lecturer in accordion and electronic instruments at "Sava Dobroplodni" High School and "Dobri Voynikov" Private School in Shumen. In 2006 he worked as a music teacher at the Bulgarian Lyceum "Vasil Levski" in Chisinau, Moldova.

In addition to teaching, the applicant has been involved in professional and artistic development: in 1987 he worked as an artistic director of the Ministry of the Interior choir, and in 1989 he was an arranger and instrumentalist at the People's Army House, Shumen.

In 2013 he was awarded the scientific degree of "Doctor" in the field of "Methods of Music Teaching", and since 2015 he holds the position of "Associate Professor" at "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen.

The presented set of materials includes all documents required under Art. 2 b, para. 2 and 3 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen.

To participate in the competition for the occupation of the academic position of "Professor" the candidate has applied: 2 monographs, 20 co-authored textbooks, 12 study aids in co-authorship and 15 articles, 12 of which are self-contained and 3 are in co-authorship.

The articles have been published in authoritative journals and thematic collections and included in the national reference list of contemporary international and Bulgarian scientific publications with scientific peer review.

III. Assoc. Prof. Ruskov's teaching and teaching activities include a wide range of disciplines taught in the fields of *Music Education Pedagogy, Pedagogy of Primary School and Pre-school Education, Pedagogy of Primary Education and Early Foreign Language Teaching, Pre-school Pedagogy, Pedagogy of Primary School and Information Technologies* in the “bachelor” and “professional bachelor” degrees and *Methods of music teaching in the early stages of education, History and theory of popular music, Modern technologies in music teaching, Music diagnostics, Audio and MIDI technologies in music, Electronic instruments, Musical instruments, Principles of music layout, Organization, technologies and repertoire for working with musical ensembles at school* in the “master’s” degree.

As a lecturer, Assoc. Prof. Ruskov has established himself as a competent and authoritative teacher, honest and tolerant to his students, who applies modern methods and teaching aids, manages to develop and upgrade their self-learning skills, provokes and develops their digital competences, as well as their creativity, in the field of music.

As a highly qualified lecturer and researcher who has the ability to carry out and manage research activities, he has been assigned as the academic advisor of two PhD students. He was the mentor of three graduates who have successfully defended their doctoral dissertations.

He develops his professional skills through qualification trainings in the country and abroad, and as a result he obtains a couple of certificates: one for a teacher in electronic instruments (Mannheim, Germany), and another certificate for practicing "Music Therapy". In addition, he regularly visits schools for the improvement of his artistic skills and competences.

As one of the leading specialists in the country - musician: accordionist, electronic instruments, arranger, artistic director of various musical ensembles, he is a member of the organizing committee and the team for conducting the “Dancing Keys” National Accordionist Competition in Novi Pazar.

IV. Academic activity

Monographs

The monograph "Creating a Digital Arrangement with a Smartphone and a Tablet" is a major habilitation work presented by the candidate. It adds to the idea of teaching methodology to modern young people, who differ from their predecessors in that they have radically different ways of thinking, behavior and learning, and their expectations are related to offering a new, visual-kinetic model. Therefore, the author proposes a mobile learning model for students in “Pedagogy of Music Teaching”, by using wireless technology that allows anyone to access music-related information and educational resources from anywhere in the world, at any time. The developed specialized software provides higher efficiency of the created product in the mobile learning-virtual environment and enriches the competence of future music teachers, thus helping the realization of digital arrangement.

The monograph “Creating and Evaluating a Digital Arrangement” is a published book based on a dissertation thesis for the award of a doctoral degree.

It presents an original methodical model for creating a digital arrangement through a MIDI project, as well as a criterion-oriented test system for evaluation and self-assessment of the student's creative product. The problem of reflection and self-reflection in the field of digital arrangement is addressed in the context of the specific knowledge, skills and competences needed by future teachers, enshrined in current regulatory documents. The system for measurement and evaluation is described and approved with provided evidence of its reliability and meaningful validity. An important contribution in the field of didactics is the synthesized original approach for determining the substantive validity of the test system, as well as the creation of a specific system for determining the level of KSC (knowledge, skills, competency) for each test task.

The proposed pedagogical technology contributes to increasing the efficiency of the educational process of future music teachers.

Articles

The articles submitted for review reflect the author's ambition to find innovative solutions in the field of music education methodology to respond to changes in society and the trainees' personality. His high level of professional competence in the field of music education methodology as well as in digital and audiovisual technologies is multiplied in the end product. The academic publications are of high scientific value, they enrich the theory and practice of contemporary musical education for students.

The articles contain innovative, proven concepts of theoretical and practical nature. These reflect the author's research to discover effective methodological and technological solutions that contribute to enhancing the knowledge, skills, digital and audiovisual competence and information culture of students - the future music teachers.

Some of them are distinct in the specificity and accuracy of the described structural models of audio and digital technologies for the creation of an arrangement, which makes them valuable for consumer practice. Some concepts for utilizing mobile applications are presented: audio, MIDI technologies, applications for smartphones and tablets, handling electronic keyboard instruments with auto-arranging features that contribute to the realization of music creativity.

The in-depth and multifaceted exploration of the problem of using modern technologies for the implementation of mobile teaching during the preparation of the contemporary music teacher has a predominantly practical application and can be described as an innovation in the field of modern higher education.

Another area of concern is the topic of the future music teacher's competency model. Aside from a retrospective analysis of the idea of the competence approach, the basic concepts are also clarified: competence, competency, professional competence, different types of competences are taken into consideration. Based on the theoretical rationale for the topic, the competence model of the music teacher is derived, with emphasis on the digital and audiovisual competence and the competence for using electronic musical instruments. The theme is supplemented and developed by considering the factors and conditions for the formation of the professionalism in the music teacher ("On Professionalism of the Future Music Teacher").

The article "On mobile learning", which clarifies the nature and history of the development of the idea of mobile learning, is a substantial contribution to the enrichment of the theoretical foundations of didactics.

Assoc Prof. Ruskov's scientific production and contributions highlight the topic of evaluating and self-assessing the achievements of future and current music teachers in the field. Test systems have been set up to evaluate the results of using mobile devices for the creation of a digital arrangement.

The applicant for the academic position of "Professor" has the ability to tailor his innovative educational strategies to the relevant levels of preparation of the subject during training. This is evident from his applicable academic works intended for Bulgarian secondary schools - a complete set of textbooks and teaching aids in music from 1st to 10th grade, in accordance with the current state educational standards and curricula. Each set contains: a textbook, a teacher's book, an electronic textbook, a set of loudspeakers, a board for frontal work.

The enclosed reference with registered citations - 25 in total, 2 of which are used in monographs, speaks eloquently about the high value of the applicant's scientific production.

The scientific and applied activity of Assoc. Prof. Ruskov "covers" the minimum national requirements under Art. 2 b, para. 2 and 3 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

V. Conclusion:

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the scientific contributions, professionalism and ethics of the applicant's academic activities are indisputable. This gives me the full conviction to give my positive assessment and recommend to the distinguished scientific jury to make a proposal report to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogics for Assoc. Prof. Stefan Panayotov Ruskov, PhD to be elected for the academic position of "Professor" by: higher education area 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in... (Methods of Music Teaching) for the needs of the "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen.

10.01.2020

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/Assoc. Prof. Yordanka Peycheva, PhD/