

STATEMENT

by

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on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for an academic degree "Associate Professor" by “Konstantin Preslavski” University of Shumen, field of Higher Education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of(Methodology in teaching Fine arts)

In the competition for "Associate Professor" announced in the Darjaven Vestnik, issue 30th of 15.04.22 and published on the website of Shumen University "Konstantin Preslavski": (<https://www.shu.bg/razvitie-as/konkursi/obnarodvani-v-dr-br-30-15-04-2022-g/>) for the needs of the Department of “Technological Education, Entrepreneurship and Visual Arts” at the Faculty of Pedagogy, as the only candidate who has submitted documents, is Lecturer Kamen Marius Teofilov from the same faculty at “Konstantin Preslavski” University of Shumen.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the applicant

On the order of Rector of Shumen University No RD-16-097/08-06-2022 on the basis of the ZRSRB and its Rules of Procedure, as well as the Rules for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Shumen "Konstantin Preslavski", I am appointed by the scientific jury as an external member for the university for an announced competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", field of Higher Education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of(Methodology in teaching Fine arts).

The set of materials is in accordance with the Rules of Development of Academic Staff in University of Shumen and with the Law on Development of Academic Staff of Republic of Bulgaria. Administrative papers are provided, as well as papers proving the professional development and research activities of the applicant: professional CV, diploma of completed Higher education, diploma certifying an acquired educational and scientific degree "Doctor", rehabilitation work – monograph, list of publications along with the publications themselves, summaries of publications, references to: citations, additional indicators under Art. 57a, para 2 and para 3 of PPZRASRB, the original scientific contributions, a declaration of authorship, a declaration of authenticity.

Three monographs are submitted. The first one is "The Digital Photo Story While Teaching Fine Arts" (7th grade) 2022 – habilitation volume of 207 p. The other two monographs are: "Photography in teaching Fine arts ", 2021. , 115 p. and "Situation of a student’s drawing in digital environment" 2021, 107 p. editions of the University Publishing House at "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen, which are declared to be books published to serve as a defense of a dissertation work for an acquisition of an educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

The scientific articles and reports are 7. They are published in non-referenced journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes. Four of the articles were published in the period 2014-2016, before the defense of the dissertation work, but have never been presented as publications on the subject of the dissertation.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activities

The candidate graduated from "St. Cyril and St. Methodius" University of Veliko Tarnovo, specialty POII. The same year he covered a Master's degree at "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen. In 2018 he defended a Doctor's degree in Professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of (Methodology of teaching Fine arts). His autobiography reveals good deal of experience in teaching of Fine arts at various schools and educational levels (High school of telecommunication, High school of building and architecture, VIth Primary school, IInd Primary school "Dr. Peter Beron", Primary and High school "Ioan Eksarh Balgarski" Shumen). Kamen Teofilov has previous experience closely related to design and photography - processing of photos and commercial materials, which undoubtedly contributed to his professional growth – the choice of dissertation's study's topic, the ambition to get involved in the job of teaching and lecturing at the University of Shumen from 2017. , his interests in the main issues of Fine arts and photography.

It is also worth noting the artistic and creative activities of the candidate in the field of digital technologies, design, commercials, photography, art graphics and painting. There are 30 creative performances for the period from 2006 to 2022. – decorative arrangement of books' covers and books, participation in international and national exhibitions, exhibitions of DShH, joint exhibitions by teachers and students, photo exhibitions, drawing exhibitions, etc. I reckon that these creative skills are not insignificant to a teacher, as they allow what he/she teaches to be first-hand experienced and to go through his/her own creative path. Kamen Marius Teofilov also has participations in projects – 1 international, 1 national, 7 university, all of them related to artistic and creative activities.

What impresses me favourably is the administrative activity of the applicant on university, faculty and department level (accreditation committees, audit committees, quality committees, etc.) His participation in the activities of the Faculty serves as a proof of his of academic engagement, professional attitude and responsibility. Anyone who is involved in such type of activity is aware of the demerits it brings along to a creative person, to a scientist who needs concentration to develop his ideas, to a teacher who is determined to perfect his/her approaches in teaching. At the same time, though, such an activity builds up other skills in a person – organizational, team-playing etc. It engenders accumulation of new experience. As a result, from a "side observer" one gets hugely committed to settling Faculty's issues, thanks to which, the Faculty can function successfully.

Despite the huge administrative workload, Kamen Teofilov follows up and attains the scientific and research goals and ideas related to his teaching activities. The quantitative dimensions of the

scientific work for the period considered, since the acquisition of a PhD degree to his current application for that of an "Associate Professor", meet the respective administrative requirements.

According to the reference of the additional indicators under Article 57, para 2 of PPZRASRB it becomes obvious the number of different disciplines which the candidate teaches – 14 in OKS Bachelor's degree, 17 (12 referring to his CV) in OKS Master's degree. A review of his teaching activity confirms that it is closely related to the topic of the announced competition; his scientific interests coincide with the field of competition, which is a prerequisite for the successful development of the respective professional direction in "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen.

The habilitation work - "A digital photo story in teaching of Fine arts (7th grade)" was created on the basis of a solo exhibition on a competition of the "Culture" department at the Municipality of Shumen, where the candidate realized his own ideas for digital photo storytelling. Given students' interest in photography this work is very relevant to the present moment. Furthermore, photography's accessibility and wide popularity through the influence of social networks makes it very attractive and desired by younger generations. This genre of synthetic art, in which a digital image is synchronized with a literary text, has been thoroughly examined by the candidate. The principles governing the process of organizing the elements in the images are clearly displayed. The link between an image and a text has been traced too. The introduced topics, techniques of work and approaches can be successfully exploited to motivate creative activity on the part of the students. The monograph "Photography in teaching Fine arts" provides basic knowledge of the art of photography. Logically and chronologically photography is traced since its inception to the modern time, putting an emphasis on its connection with Fine arts, as well as on the influence of digital technology on photography.

The author obviously follows the principle from theory to practice. For an example, by analyzing certain types of composing and compositional approaches, he derives specific practical recommendations which he applies in practical photography classes. Studying those approaches, techniques, and properly applying them, forms an aesthetic and visual culture in the students, which contributes to the deeper perception and understanding of Fine arts. Interesting ideas for work on Fine arts in the lower Secondary stage are offered in "Situation of a student's drawing in a digital environment", such as: digital photography and graphical processing of images through a software program. All that undoubtedly improves the digital competencies of the students. The articles and reports shed light on the issues discussed within the monographs. There are publications that address various problems – aesthetic perception, artistic expression, alternative interactive forms of teaching Fine arts.

The theoretical and practical work in the habilitation work, in the monographs and in other works submitted for review ,have undeniable value and are directly oriented towards scientific and educational work. There are original and quite applicable scientific contributions in the works. I recognize and accept the contributions made by the candidate.

As far as my critical notes are concerned, I don't have any. I would give some tips though. The lists of literature extracts used (the extracts almost coincide) in the three monographs could have been reduced, with a view to remain only the particular literature pieces used or quoted. In folder with materials, report 1 coincides with report 3. What is more, the publication "Metamorphosis of Aesthetic Perception" is missing. My recommendation to the candidate is, as an opportunity of future professional and career development, to produce publications in a referenced edition.

CONCLUSION

The scientific and teaching qualifications of lecturer Kamen Tefilov are unquestionable. Erudite, with wide range of interests, with a modern and original way of thinking, with a contemporary vision of Fine arts and artistic photography, he has his own emotional interpretation of the stuff discussed. However, at the same time, he is able to accurately and clearly "translate" his knowledge and ideas into an understandable language, without unnecessary complication, which contributes to shortening the distance with students and the wide range of readers. The materials submitted for evaluation **comply with the requirements** of the Law on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Rules of Application of ZRASRB and the respective rules of the "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen.

I believe that the candidate's monographic works and publications in specialized scientific publications are his own author's work and do not infringe somebody else's copyright. After familiarizing myself with the materials and scientific papers presented for the competition, after analyzing their significance, and the scientific and applicable contributions contained therein, I find it perfectly reasonable to give **my positive assessment and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report –proposal to the Faculty Council of "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen for the selection of Kamen Marius Teofilov for the academic position "Associate Professor" , field of Higher Education: 1.Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of(Methodology in teaching Fine arts)**

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