

REVIEW

By Professor Dr. Venelin Angelov Georgiev, Department of National and International Security, New Bulgarian University, professional field 9.1. National Security on the scientific papers for participation in a competition for the academic position of "professor", in professional field 9.1. National Security, announced in the State Gazette 95/08.11.2024, with candidate Associate Professor Dr. Yordan Stoyanov Doykov.

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University

The candidate in the competition for the academic position of "professor" Associate Professor Doykov meets the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University. This is evident from the information provided by the candidate in the self-assessment report. With a required minimum number of points of 760, the candidate has presented evidence, which, when assessed in the appropriate manner, gives a total number of points of 795. The latter were obtained on the basis of the following criteria: dissertation work for the award of the ONS "doctor" - 50 points; published habilitation work in the scientific field of the competition - 100 points; published book based on the defended dissertation work - 150 points; published articles and reports in non-refereed publications - 50 points; citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 100 points; published university textbook - 100 points; presence of a research program – 10 points; membership in international and national professional organizations – 10 points; translation of scientific papers – 10 points; public lectures held on behalf of NBU – 10 points; organization and conduct of scientific seminars, schools and conferences – 20 points; proven professional applied skills – 20 points; average score from a student survey – 10 points; authored teaching materials – 20 points; joint work with students on projects – 20 points; supervision and review of graduates – 20 points; participation in NBU staff training programs – 50 points; fulfillment of academic duties – 10 points; participation in the academic administration of NBU – 25 points; absence of penalties under the Criminal Code – 10 points. The reviewer accepts the evidence presented by the candidate, on account of which the candidate has the necessary number of points, meeting the minimum requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University.

II. Research activity and results

1. Evaluation of the monographic work, creative works or other publications corresponding in volume and completeness to a monographic work, including an assessment of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the author.

The candidate has presented his monographic work "Sociological and Political Science Approaches" to the competition, which is the first volume of a series entitled "War, Military Affairs and the Army: Social Scientific Approaches to Their Conceptualization". The research in the monograph is aimed at revealing and proving the place and role of sociology and political science in the analysis of military theory and practice on the path to ensuring national security. The author focuses on the object of study, which he defines as war, military affairs and the army. He examines this object through the prism of scientific approaches in the social sciences and their abilities to conceptualize the object of study. Thus structured, the study allows the author to develop his ideas and to bring them to a set of evidence for the formulated thesis.

The reviewer gives a positive assessment of the monographic work presented by the participant in the competition.

2. Assessment of the contributions in the remaining applied publications (creative works) made after the appointment to the academic position of "associate professor". It also includes an assessment of the requirement for peer review of the publications.

The candidate for the competition has presented a dissertation work developed by him, as part of the minimum requirements. The dissertation work is on a topic related to the institutional features of political decisions on Bulgaria's participation in military-political alliances. The author's goal is to substantiate the political logic of decisions in two different historical periods, thereby creating conditions for developing a model for making similar types of decisions. Based on the results of the research conducted, the dissertation work proves the hypothesis regarding the place of internal and external factors in making appropriate types of decisions and in their implementation. The dissertation work substantiates the author's contributions, which the reviewer assesses as expanding existing knowledge in the field of research and supplementing nuances based on the study of specific cases.

Based on the developed dissertation, the candidate for the competition published two books, which included a self-assessment for evaluation in his report. The first book treats the mechanisms for making political decisions in the context of national security. In the book, the author defends the thesis that the individual approach to making political decisions poses a risk to the decisions themselves. As a consequence of this, the place and role of institutional procedures and mechanisms are emphasized, which play the role of a protective reflex and a guarantee of avoiding errors in the decision-making process.

The second book is in the field of the peculiarities of Bulgaria's membership in two military-political unions at different historical moments. The emphasis is on the mechanisms for making the relevant political decisions, and the goal is focused on creating a model for making similar types of decisions in the context of national security.

The reviewer recognizes the contribution of the two books as an expansion and validation of the contributions received in the dissertation.

The participant in the competition presents five articles/reports published in non-refereed publications with scientific review/edited scientific volumes. In all publications, Assoc. Prof. Doykov is the only author, as three of the publications are in Bulgarian and two

are in English. The subject matter of the submitted publications is in the field of the competition and reveals the author's opinion on the issues of the political aspect of decisions made in the field of security.

The participant in the competition submits for evaluation five university textbooks published by him. They cover topics including sociological aspects of security, civilian control over national security, leadership and negotiation in the context of national security, corporate and company intelligence. The reviewer positively assesses the practical benefit of the textbooks and their application in educational activities.

As part of his publishing activity, the participant in the competition has included in his self-assessment report the translation of the French publication Carl Schmitt. *Theorie du partisan*,

Overall, the reviewer accepts the publications submitted for evaluation with a recommendation that the participant in the competition strengthen his publishing activity, thereby providing wider access and an opportunity for discussion of his ideas and theses.

3. Citations by other authors.

In his self-assessment report, the candidate has presented evidence of ten citations of his publications by other authors in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review. The cited works of the candidate are in the areas of the analysis of the mechanisms for making political decisions, the participation of Bulgaria in military-political alliances, the methodological construction of social analysis, etc. The use of author's theses of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yordan Doykov by other authors gives the reviewer reason to positively assess the candidate's competence in the above-mentioned areas. All citations are by Bulgarian authors in publications in Bulgarian, but this does not reduce their value. As a recommendation, expanding the field of the candidate's publication activity with publications in foreign languages, which will expand the circle of the audience that accesses these works and as a consequence will lead to sharing of opinions and citations in foreign publications.

The reviewer considers the number and type of citations of the candidate's works by other authors in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review to be sufficient for admission to election by the Academic Council to occupy the academic position of "professor".

4. Evaluation of the results of participation in research projects and application of the obtained results in practice.

In his self-assessment report, the participant in the competition indicated participation in two research projects. The first is on the topic "Stress at the workplace - prerequisites, consequences and management strategies", and the second - "Internet addiction among Bulgarian students". Both projects are part of the program of the University of Library Science and Information Technologies. The results of the projects are available on the project pages on the Internet. The reviewer recommends increasing the participation of Assoc. Prof. Doykov in

research projects, expanding their scope to international projects, taking into account his position as director of a research laboratory.

As part of the research activity of the candidate in the competition, the reviewer recognizes his participation in the organization of two scientific conferences. The first is a national conference on the topic "Hybrid wars - implications for Bulgaria", held at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The second is an international online conference on the topic "War and Peace in the 21st Century", prepared and held jointly by the Department of Political Science of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and the Department of International Relations of Essenov University, Kazakhstan.

The participant in the competition presents his intentions for further research activity with the help of a research program developed by him. It includes three main elements. The first one envisages the development of a monographic work "Methodological Construction in Social Analysis" in 5 volumes, and at the moment the content of the series has been developed and the first volume has been published. The second element of the research program envisages the development of a dissertation work for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences". It is planned that the research will be directed in the field of corporate synthesis. The third element of the program envisages the development of a three-volume monographic work dedicated to social scientific approaches to war, military affairs and the army. At the moment, the first volume has been published, which is submitted for nomination under this competition.

III. Educational and teaching activities

1. Classroom and extracurricular employment, work in the electronic learning module "MOODLE - NBU", provision of student practices and internships, work with students and doctoral students.

The annual workload of the participant in the competition for the academic year 2023/2024 exceeds the required number of hours of 180 classroom hours and 60 training hours, reaching a total of 270 hours of classroom employment and 435 hours of extracurricular/training employment.

The participant in the competition has included in his self-assessment report the development of teaching materials in the electronic learning model MOODLE for the following courses he leads: Levels of Security, Society and Security, Organization of International Security, Crisis of Values and Asymmetric Threats, International Relations and Security, Fundamentals of Security, Defense Security. The reviewer positively assesses the aspirations of Assoc. Prof. Doykov to develop and supplement the educational materials published in the electronic environment.

In his self-assessment report, the participant in the competition indicates evidence reflecting his work with graduate students. The summary of the indicated data shows that Assoc. Prof. Doykov was a scientific supervisor of 12 graduate students (two bachelor's and ten

master's); a reviewer of 24 diploma theses (17 bachelor's and 7 master's), and twice a participant in state examination committees. The reviewer positively assesses the work of the participant in the competition with graduate students.

2. Student survey ratings.

According to data from the information array of the NBU systems, the participant in the competition has ratings for courses taught in the two semesters of the academic year 2022-23. The average rating from the student surveys for this period is a very good 4.24 (with a maximum of 5.00). The reviewer accepts the student survey rating as positive, which represents a high level of satisfaction with the teaching activities of the participant in the competition.

IV. Administrative and public activity

1. Participation in collective governing bodies of NBU.

The participant in the competition shows activity in his participation in the collective governing bodies of the New Bulgarian University. As evidence of this, his participation in meetings of the Program Council and the Department Council, compliance with the announced reception time and strict adherence to the schedule for conducting classes can be accepted.

2. Public activity.

As part of the public activity of the participant in the competition, the reviewer recognizes the public lectures delivered on behalf of the New Bulgarian University. The topic of the public lectures is in the field of the competition and includes issues of institutional decisions in security policy and the mechanisms for making them, geopolitical fundamentalism and the geopolitical imperative, the supremacy of the state interest.

Another direction in the public activity of the participant in the competition is his participation in training under the NBU program for training of teaching and administrative staff. Associate Professor Doykov indicates his participation in five trainings on topics that contribute to his professional development. The reviewer positively assesses Assoc. Prof. Doykov's participation in the indicated trainings as part of his public activity.

The participant in the competition is a member of the Bulgarian Association of Political Science. He is the Director of the Specialized Laboratory for Risk and Security Research. There are no penalties under the Labor Code.

3. Attracting students to the program.

The participant in the competition actively participates in the department's activities related to attracting students. As a member of the team for developing materials for program accreditation, Assoc. Prof. Doykov took an active part both in the preparation of the materials and during the work with the accreditation team. During the open days, Assoc. Prof. Doykov is involved with proposals for holding various events in order to advertise the programs in the professional field. The reviewer gives a positive assessment of the efforts of the participant in the competition to attract students to the programs of the department.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

Professionally, Assoc. Prof. Doykov possesses a high level of general culture and specialized professional knowledge in the field of the competition. With his high erudition, he is a sought-after interlocutor in talks and discussions on security issues in the broad aspect of understanding this concept.

Personally, Assoc. Prof. Doykov is distinguished by exceptional collegiality and readiness to assist colleagues. These qualities have built a positive image for him among both colleagues and students.

The reviewer has positive personal impressions of the participant in the competition.

VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activities and achievements of the candidate

In the reviewer's opinion, the participant in the competition makes the necessary efforts in a professional and personal sense both for his own professional development and for strengthening the image of the department and the university as a whole.

The reviewer makes recommendations regarding the development of publication activity by expanding the range of publication channels and strengthening participation in research projects.

Conclusion

Based on the materials provided for the competition and the personal impressions of the candidate, the reviewer gives a positive assessment of the academic activity of Associate Professor Dr. Yordan Doykov and proposes that he be admitted by election by the Academic Council to occupy the academic position of "professor" in the professional field 9.1. National Security.

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