

Opinion

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krasen Stefanov Stanchev, Sofia University, Department of Public Administration, professional field 2.3. "Philosophy"

Re: competition for an associate professorship in the professional field 3.7. Administration and Management (Management and regulation in the Power Sector), announced in SG No. 22 / 18.03.2022, with candidate Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Victor Stanislavov Avramov

Grounds for stating this opinion: a Scientific Jury membership as per Order № 3-PK-240 / 18.05.2022 of the Rector of NBU and decision of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury of 26.05.2022.

Plus, the Opinion has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LASRB), the Regulations for its implementation (LASRB) and the Ordinance for the development of the academic staff in the NBU. Structurally, the opinion consists of Part VI and a conclusion in accordance with the model for the preparation of an opinion for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" at NBU.

[A Summary of the version in Bulgarian, omitting references to national law and NBU Bylaws and Requirement for an Academic/Scientific Positions]

General statement

- The total number of points of the candidate (818.3 points) on the evaluation indicators is significantly higher than the required minimum (570 points).
- The candidate for the position, the Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Victor Stanislavov Avramov fits all the legal and NBU requirement for the quoted associate professorship position.

II. Scientific (creative) дейностwork and output

Output to date: Dr. Avramov academic output submitted for the competition consists of:

- one monograph (habilitation thesis);
- a book published on the basis of a defended dissertation;
- 23 articles and reports, of which 22 are independent publications in scientific peer-reviewed publications.

1. The monograph "The Liberalized Electricity Market: Competition, Consumption and Market Structure" analyzes the interrelationship between cyclical variations in electricity consumption in different time intervals and the market structure of the market.

The main scientific and applied contributions in the monographic work can be systematized as follows:

- Detailed analysis of the constituent elements and conceptual specifics of the electricity market.
- Identification of the cyclical nature of consumption, as the main qualitative characteristic in all considered time periods, determined by the natural variations of the climate and by the social conventions in the consumer behavior;
- Study of market results by analyzing the market structure and mechanisms of competition, which depend on the individual behavior of market participants and the rules that structure it. They are largely subject to the costs of producers, the technologies they use and the time interval in which consumption takes place;
- Interpreting these results in the broader context of the institutional environment that policies and regulatory mechanisms create.

2. An evaluation of the contributions in the other attached publications (creative performances), made after the appointment of the academic position "Assistant Professor" or the academic position "Associate Professor" (for candidates for professor). It also includes an assessment of the peer reviewing requirements.

The submitted non-habilitation publications demonstrate a consistency in the scientific interests and researches of the candidate, and his scientific and scientific-applied contributions are as follows:

- An analysis of risks in the energy sector, proposing management measures to influence them;
- An analysis of the regulatory mechanisms and strategic documents of the policy of liberalization of energy markets;
- An analysis of the market structure in the fuel sector and forecasting of electricity consumption;
- A review the evolution of the liberalization of the European electricity market;
- A consistent analysis of the changing objectives of EU energy policy;
- An application of the risk assessments to the management of the electricity and energy system of Bulgaria;
- The above helps the author make unconventionally in-depth comments on current issues in the electricity and energy markets, which, I am convinced from personal observations, raise the general level of public discussions of energy policies.

3. *Citations* There are 14 verified sources of references to Dr. Avramov's publications, three of which are cited in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases

My overall assessment is positive.

III. Teaching activities

I have no personal encounters or impression from Dr. Avramov teaching and associated academic activities since we are colleagues from different universities.

What can be seen from the documents is the following:

1. He is a lecturer at NBU on full time contract;
2. According to the reference for long-term attestation (for the period 2014/15-2021 / 2022) he overfulfills the norms for auditory and extracurricular employment;

3. He is a member of the Program Council in the Department of Administration and Management, Dr. Victor Avramov, initiator and co-founder of the program "Business Management and Entrepreneurship" - full-time and distance learning for bachelors,

4. as well as the author of the master's programs "Sustainable Management and Development of the Energy Sector" and "Business Development in Network Industries: Energy, Telecommunications, Transport";

5. He is a participant in the development of new and adaptation of the content to the requirements of the business in the courses led by him in these programs (indicator 31 of the self-assessment).

6. In Moodle NBU, Dr. Avramov has shared teaching materials (e-textbook, presentations and simulations) on basic courses such as "Heuristic methods and management decisions"; "Change management; "The art of negotiation (expert)" (Indicator 36). Teaches in foreign language courses (MHRE416 Organizational Analysis, Design and Development - reference in the Electronic Catalog of Curricula of NBU).

7. He had been a research supervisor of 54 students, has prepared 105 reviews and has participated in 227 examination commissions. (Group 3, indicator 38).

8. His teaching activity is highly appreciated by students. For the last 5 years the average assessment of the students for the satisfaction with the courses of Dr. Avramov is 4.61 out of a maximum of 5 (according to a Report from the Center for Quality and Evaluation and a Report from an e-lecturer: Monitoring - surveyed students).

9. In his teaching activity he also provides internships for students in Corporate Advisors Ltd. (Group H, Indicator 39).

10. Together with the students he conducts research, the results of which he presents at national and international conferences.

11. Dr. Avramov is a lecturer at the invitation of business organizations (for example, the Bulgarian Industrial Association) and before the academic community of NBU (Group G, Indicator 29).

12. In order to improve and expand his teaching skills and knowledge, he actively participates in the training programs of the teaching and administrative staff of NBU (Group I, indicator 42; Information from the Center for Career Development and Training Resources).

All this gives me reason to appreciate Dr. Viktor Avramov as an established lecturer, responsible and correct lecturer. His teaching activities are categorically related to the subject-matter of competition, and the accumulated teaching experience is fully responsible for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.7. Administration and Management.

I dare say that my university, the universities where I have had the honor of teaching and the business organizations in which I am a member, researcher and with whom I have worked (currently an honorary member of the BCCI Board) would be happy to have a teacher with such characteristics and qualifications.

IV. Admin work and community involvement

Dr. Viktor Avramov has been engaged as Director of the Program Council of the Department of Administration and Management since 2019.

- Actively participates in SSC and admission commissions.
- Participates in the meetings of program councils, observes the reception time as a teacher and conducts regular classes.

- Actively participates in organizing and conducting scientific events, workshops, scientific seminars, trainings, workshops, student discussion forums, public lectures at NBU and elsewhere.

- He is the director of UPIZ "Laboratory of Quantitative Methods and Modeling" at the Ministry of Finance of NBU.

- As an energy expert, he actively participates in various television formats on behalf of the Department and the NBU on current issues related to economic expert analysis and risk assessment in the energy sector (electricity, natural gas, liquid fuels), as well as management tools for impact on these risks in the sector.

I follow as often as I can the candidate's media appearances (in Mediapool, Investor, Bloomberg - Bulgaria TV, etc.) and I am convinced that the administrative and public activities of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Viktor Avramov contributes to the development and improvement of the educational process in various bachelor's and master's programs at NBU, as well as that they contribute to the prestige of the university.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

My personal impressions of Viktor Avramov are that he is highly responsible, creative, precise and proactive in his research. He is obviously the same in his teaching work.

From his public appearances it is clear that he is dialogical, thorough, argumentative and tolerant towards colleagues, interlocutors and - I guess - opponents.

The research work shows systematic, high professionalism, taste for empirical argumentation and accurate methods.

I cannot hide the fact that I am more attracted to the macroeconomic approach, the cost-benefit analysis and applications of the Public Choice Theory to the power sector policies and regulations, and that I have a certain a priori dislike for the manifestations of nudging and/or central planning.

TAKING Into account these "peculiarities", I want to share that for me his publications and media appearances are extremely authoritative and that I consider it impossible for a person not to comply with them.

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

The scientific publications of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Viktor Avramov have been developed on a fundamental theoretical and empirical basis. The practical recommendations contained in them are well-argued. I have no specific critical remarks on the content of the candidate's scientific papers.

In several of his major scientific publications, Viktor Avramov demonstrates knowledge of game theories and decision theory. I believe that his future research and teaching activities could develop in the direction of:

- More consistent analysis of the decision-making process and political risks;
- Analysis of the correlations between cultural behavior, political preferences and energy policies;
- Macroeconomic analysis and ratios of energy prices and prices of goods and services, especially historically.

Conclusion

The candidate in the competition, the Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Viktor Avramov meets the requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor", according to respective laws and regulation, and the Bylaws of NBU.

I propose to the members of the Scientific Jury the candidate for the competition Dr. Victor Stanislavov Avramov to be elected to hold the academic position of "Aa Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.7 Administration and management at the NBU (management and regulation in the energy sector).

Date 22.06.2022

Signature:

