
Czech University of Life Sciences Prague

Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences



FTA Scientific Board

Meeting Report

25th of April 2025

The meeting of the FTA Scientific Board took place on April 25, 2025

Chairman: prof. dr.ir. Patrick Van Damme

Members:

Present: prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D.
doc. Ing. Miroslava Bavorová, Ph.D.
doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D.
prof. Dr. Ing. Eloy Fernández Cusimamani
prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.
doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.
prof. Mgr. Ing. Markéta Sedmíková, Ph.D.

Apologies: Ing. Kateřina Černý Pixová, Ph.D.
prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.
doc. Ing. Vilém Jarský, Ph.D.
prof. Ing. Ladislav Kokoška, Ph.D.
prof. Dr. Ing. František Kumhála
prof. PhDr. Michal Lošťák, Ph.D.
prof. RNDr. Irena Valterová, CSc.

External members:

Present: doc. Ing. Jan Chyský, CSc.
prof. RNDr. Dr. Oldřich Lapčík
doc. Mgr. Zdeněk Opršal, CSc.
doc. RNDr. Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová, Ph.D.

Apologies: prof. RNDr. Daniel Frynta, Ph.D.
doc. RNDr. Josef Novotný, Ph.D.
prof. RNDr. Vojtěch Novotný, CSc.

Guests: doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D.
doc. Ing. Johana Rondevaldová, Ph.D.

Secretary: Ing. Vendula Ludvíková, Ph.D.
Minute taker: Ing. Barbora Motýlová

FTZ Scientific Board 25. 04. 2025 programme:

- **Opening of the Meeting**
- **Information from the previous FTZ Scientific Board meeting**
- **FTZ Annual Report 2024**
- **Approval of committees for Bachelor and Master state examination and defences**
- **Approval of new supervisor for doctoral study programme (doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D.)**
- **Approval of new state doctoral committee member (Mgr. Tomáš Moravec, Ph.D.)**
- **Miscellaneous**

1) Opening of the Meeting

Prof. Patrick Van Damme, the Chairman, greeted everyone and opened the Scientific Board meeting.

2) Information from the previous FTZ Scientific Board meeting

Prof. Van Damme provided a brief overview of the previous meeting held on November 22, 2024. He highlighted the successful habilitations of Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D., and Ing. Johana Rondevaldová, Ph.D.

3) FTZ Annual Report 2024

The Annual Report and the faculty's strategic plan were presented. Key highlights included the launch of a new online MSc programme, the introduction of a double degree programme with Thailand, and the fact that approximately 50% of the faculty's students are international. A high number of incoming academics was noted; however, the mobility of outgoing academic staff was slightly lower than expected. Concerns were raised about the increasing difficulties some students—particularly those from Africa—face in obtaining visas to come to the Czech Republic. It was suggested that recruitment efforts could also be expanded to other regions, such as South America.

Discussion:

- Doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D., pointed out an incorrect figure in the report, specifically the claim that “100% of courses were evaluated.” He noted that this was not feasible, citing issues like student enrollment problems preventing evaluations.
- Doc. Mgr. Zdeněk Opršal, CSc., raised the topic of legislative changes, which exclude obligatory Bachelor's thesis defences and state exam for Master's programmes. He asked how the faculty plans to adapt to the new rules for doctoral students. He also inquired about the new Higher Education Act and its impact on Ph.D. students.

The board discussed Ph.D. admissions regulation, agreeing that each department will have a limited number of doctoral students they can accept (three per department). Departments wishing to admit more students must secure their own funding, or they can accept self-paying candidates. It was confirmed that the faculty intends to retain the Bachelor's thesis as mandatory.

- Doc. RNDr. Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová, Ph.D., inquired about the faculty's support for open science initiatives. The board emphasized the growing importance of open science and agreed on the need to develop a strategy for open-access publishing. The need for a data repository, clarifying data ownership, and promoting open data practices without relying on financial incentives were also discussed.

Discussion participants: Prof. Dr. Ir. Patrick Van Damme, Prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D., Doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D., Doc. Miroslava Bavorová, Prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D., Doc. RNDr. Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová, Ph.D., Doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D., Doc. Mgr. Zdeněk Opršal, CSc.

4) Approval of committees for Bachelor's and Master's state examinations and defences

- Two committees for the Bachelor's state examinations were proposed. One person was changed and instead of him were proposed two other members.

Vote: 11 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention — *Approved*

- Seven committees for the Master's state examinations were proposed.

Vote: 12 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions — *Approved*

5) Approval of new supervisor for doctoral study programme (doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D.)

Doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D., was introduced as a new supervisor for the doctoral study programme SRD and ATS.

Vote: 12 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions — *Approved*

6) Approval of new state doctoral committee member (Mgr. Tomáš Moravec, Ph.D.)

Doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík introduced Mgr. Tomáš Moravec, Ph.D., from the Laboratory of Virology at the Institute of Experimental Botany, Czech Academy of Sciences. Mgr. Tomáš Moravec, Ph.D., had previously been approved by the Doctoral Board (DDB) on March 7, 2025, for the TABM and ATS doctoral study programmes.

Vote: 12 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions — *Approved*

7) Miscellaneous

- Prof. Dr. Ir. Patrick Van Damme mentioned that this would be his last meeting as dean and that he would be passing on the role to doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D., later that day. He expressed his gratitude to all attendees.

Formal Recap:

The meeting covered the review of the previous board meeting, the annual report, approval of committees for Bachelor's and Master's programmes, the appointment of a new doctoral supervisor (doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D.), and the approval of a new state exam committee member (Mgr. Tomáš Moravec, Ph.D.).

Vote: 12 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions — *Approved*

- doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D., invited everyone to the inauguration ceremony.



prof. dr. ir. Patrick Van Damme
The Chairman of FTA, CZU Prague Scientific Board

