



Tropical Agrobiography and Bioresource Management Doctoral Degree Board Meeting Report

7. 3. 2025

Meeting of the TABM Doctoral Degree Board took place on 7th March 2025

The following members of the Board were present.

Present members:

prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejčmanová, Ph.D.

prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D.

RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Jaroslav Havlík, Ph.D. (online)

doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Pavel Klouček, Ph.D.

Ing. Martin Kulma, Ph.D.

Ing. Jiban Kumar, Ph.D.

Ing. Olga Leuner, Ph.D.

prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Zbyněk Polesný, Ph.D (online)

doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.

prof. Mgr. Ing. Markéta Sedmíková, Ph.D.

prof. RNDr. Irena Valterová, CSc.

Ing. Iva Viehmannová, Ph.D.

Apologies:

doc. RNDr. David Honys, Ph.D.

doc. Tersia Kokošková, Ph.D.

prof. Lukáš Kratochvíl, Ph.D.

Secretary:

Ing. Vendula Ludvíková, Ph.D.

Minute taker:

Ing. Barbora Motýlová

Programme of TABM Doctoral Degree Board:

1. Opening (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.)
2. Information from the last Doctoral Degree Board meeting 15.11.2024 (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.)
3. Reports from the attestations of PhD students from January/February 2025 (representatives of individual departments)
4. Approval of previously unapproved ISP doctoral students (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.)
5. Approval of new SDE examiner (prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.)
6. Approval of Research Proposals of first-year students (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.)
7. Approval of new Doctoral Dissertation Thesis topics
8. Approval of co-supervisors of Doctoral Dissertation Thesis (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.)
9. New Higher Education Act and Admissions Procedure for the Academic Year 25/26 (Assoc. Prof. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.)
10. Miscellaneous

1. Opening

Prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D., opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and summarizing the meeting's agenda.

2. Information from the Last Doctoral Degree Board Meeting

Prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D., provided an overview of the last meeting held in autumn 2024.

3. Reports from the Attestations of PhD Students (representatives of individual departments)

Prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D. (Department of Crop Science and Agroforestry):

Attestation date: 21 January 2025. 17 students were considered. 10 students are continuing without any problems, 6 students are continuing with objection, and 1 student has interrupted their studies. Some students also faced issues with publication requirements. Generally, there are issues noted with fulfilling ISP requirements.

Recommendation: Supervisors and students should regularly check ISPs in the system to ensure accuracy.

Prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D. (Department of Animal Science and Food Processing):

21 active students, 10 interrupted. Most students progressed without any issues. In recent years, students have interrupted their studies, mainly due to delays in submitting scientific articles. This issue concerns mostly students in the final year of their studies.

Prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D. (Department of Sustainable Technologies):

Only 1 student, who recently started the program. No problems reported.

4. Approval of previously unapproved ISP doctoral students (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.)

- **Özel Muhammed Sefik (KUT):** The previous annotation was unclear, and it is recommended to delete the first sentence. The name does not match the description closely enough. The name should be rewritten. **Approved with comment** – clarify the title, adjust it.
- **Tadeáš Sochr:** The previous description was too short but is now acceptable. It was noted that the state exam course could be the same as a course taken during studies; this decision is left to the supervisor's decision. Additionally, scientific names must be italicized. **Approved.**
- **Muhhamad Uzair Javed:** The consultant (same as the supervisor, Ing. Iva Viehmannová, Ph.D.) should be removed. It is recommended to leave the reference. **Approved.**
- **Jimoh Jamiu Muhammed:** The consultant (same as supervisor) must be removed. Two consultants will be added: Doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D., and Prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D. The topic should be more specific, and the assignment title needs to be more precise. Once the consultant details and title are updated, the **ISP approved with comment** – specify the title, adjust supervisor's name.

5. Approval of New SDE Examiner

Mgr. Tomáš Moravec, Ph.D., was introduced along with his previous scientific work and was proposed as a new member and examiner for the state defence exam.
Approved.

6. Approval of Research Proposals for First-Year Students

- Čelakovská Martina – **Approved**
- Grégerová Tereza – **Approved**
- Ward Mattew – **Approved**
- Mulko Miroslav – **Approved**
- Özel Muhammad Sefik – Is recommended to discuss and revise the title with the supervisor and co-supervisor. After title revision, it **will be approved**.
- Panhavoan Ky – **Approved**
- Sochr Tadeáš – **Approved**
- Muhammad Uzair Javed – **Approved**
- Jimoh Jamiu Muhammed – The proposal will be approved later; the student needs more time to finalize it. **Not approved**.

7. Approval of new Doctoral Dissertation Thesis topics

A new topic was proposed:

- **Agroforestry systems for climate change adaptation and mitigation** (prof. Bohdan Lojka)

Approved.

8. Approval of Co-Supervisors for Doctoral Dissertation Thesis

Supervisors must provide justification for their co-supervisors. A table with the relevant information was presented.

Doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D., noted that the terms "consultant," "co-supervisor," and "advisor of thesis" are used inconsistently across three different documents to refer to the same role. It was discussed whether this inconsistency can be corrected or if it is a system issue.

Prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D., asked supervisors to complete the justification box as soon as possible.

Part of the proposal was approved. Supervisors need to add the required justifications. **Once the justifications are provided, the proposal will be approved later per rollam.**

9. New Higher Education Act and Admissions Procedure for the Academic Year 25/26 (Assoc. Prof. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.)

Assoc. Prof. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D. mentioned few key things especially those related to PhD students like digitalization, no obligatory state exams, easier change of study program or more autonomy for universities to have fees for English taught programmes. Currently our faculty have 63 active PhD students (with those who are interrupted it is 104).

Discussion:

The discussion focused on the uncertainty of funding for the next year, confirming that no guarantees can be made. There was an emphasis on the need to develop and approve a new strategy for admissions and funding, including updating relevant rules on websites well in advance—ideally three months before the academic year begins. The main criterion is the budget for financing PhD students.

Supervisors who can guarantee student income through grants or other sources could receive priority when selecting students. The recommended guideline is three students per department, based on available funding, with departments responsible for paying students 1.2 times the minimum wage. Part-time students do not require income, and strong candidates for whom the faculty lacks funding could be offered a self-paid ATS program.

The importance of creating guidelines for the admission process was highlighted, along with concerns about productivity. It was discussed that funding isn't aligned with student success rates and the completion of their studies. It was agreed that the board should oversee quality assurance.

It was suggested to schedule a meeting in the second half of May or the first week of June to brainstorm and finalize new criteria for admission procedure 2026/2027.

10. Miscellaneous

Doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D. highlighted an issue with the student subject offerings: out of 20 available subjects, 11 are taught in Czech by employees who are no longer part of the faculty. This unresolved issue causes problems for students who try to contact these people.

Efforts to fix the problem have been made, and occasionally the outdated subjects reappear in the system. It was suggested that the technical aspects of the issue might need to be discussed with the system's providers.

It was recommended to solve this issue.

Conclusion

The chairwoman prof. Pavla Hejcmanová thanked all the present members and closed the meeting of the Doctoral Degree Board.



In Prague, 7th March 2025

prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.

Chairperson of DDB TABM