

2026 FTZ CZU Senate Election – Academic Candidates

Tatiana Alexiou Ivanova

Tatiana A. Ivanova completed her BSc, MSc, and PhD studies at FTZ and also obtained pedagogical education at the Institute of Education and Communication CZU. She has been working at FTZ since 2009, initially as a technician, later as an assistant professor, and since 2019 as an associate professor. In her teaching and research activities, she focuses on environmental technologies and renewable energy. She is the Head of the Laboratory of Biofuels and the BioEnviro research team, and the author of over 70 scientific publications. At CZU, she also serves as the FTZ representative in the Technology Transfer Office and the Licensing Board. She actively represents FTZ in expert commissions and associations, e.g., evaluation committee of the National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education, Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Scientific Board of the Faculty of Horticulture at Mendel University and Czech Agrifood Research Centre. She has completed many internships abroad and has experience in both national and international research projects. Since 2006, she has acted as an expert or coordinator of 16 development projects (in Moldova, Cambodia, Syria, and Afghanistan). For her long-term contribution to the State Agrarian University of Moldova, she was awarded the title of Honorary Professor. Since 2023, she has been a member of AS FTZ, where she would like to continue promoting excellence, transparency, cohesion, and a “family-like” environment at our unique faculty.



Tamara Fedorova

I have been an Assistant Professor (0.5 FTE) at the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences CZU Prague, since 2012, where I also completed my studies. I currently serve as Deputy Head of Department and actively contribute to both departmental and faculty operations. My part-time academic position also enables me to support the Antelope Conservation association, to which I devote my remaining working time. As co-guarantor of the Tropical Agriculture programme and coordinator of the WLPMC programme, I am in regular contact with bachelor's and master's students. I have been an active member of the Faculty Academic Senate since

2016 and served as its Chair for the past three years. Since 2023, I have also been a member of the CZU Academic Senate and, in recent months, part of its Presidium. I approach my role with responsibility and proactivity, aiming to advance both the faculty and the university. My goal is open, constructive discussion with senators as well as all members of the academic community and staff attending meetings. If I receive the trust and mandate to do so, I am ready to continue serving as Chair of the FTZ AS and to build upon the approach I have consistently applied.

Jiří Hejrlík

I am running for the Senate of FTZ to contribute my long-term experience to the faculty's future development. For more than 15 years, I have served as Vice-Dean, gaining deep insight into faculty management, particularly from the perspective of study programmes and students. I served as a representative in the Council of Higher Education Institutions and in the main CZU bodies, where university and national education policies were developed. I have participated in numerous international and national projects focused on higher education capacity-building and quality assurance.



I am the guarantor of the ICARD Bachelor programme, and I actively teach across all study levels. This keeps me connected to students' concerns. My primary goal as a member of the Senate is to strengthen the quality and attractiveness of study programmes for Czech and international students. I see the Senate not only as the faculty's main supervision body, but also as a platform for open discussion and innovation.



Markéta Houdková

Markéta Houdková completed her doctoral studies at FTA, CZU in 2018. After successfully defending her doctoral thesis, she got a three-year post-doc position. Since year 2021, she has been employed as a scientific researcher at the Department of Crop Sciences and Agroforestry. She is currently working on her research in the Laboratory of Ethnobotany and Ethnopharmacology which is focused on the assessment of biological effects and chemistry of tropical and subtropical plants. Particularly, she studies essential oils and plant-derived volatiles and their applications in the vapor phase. For this purpose, she has developed novel *in vitro* laboratory methods for the testing of antibacterial

potential and toxicity of volatile agents. As part of her scientific activities, she has participated in several research expeditions in tropical regions (Cambodia, India, Laos, Philippines), presented her results at international scientific conferences, and she has been involved in multiple research projects. She is the author or co-author of 25 scientific publications, one patent, and her H-index has a value of 10. She also participates in teaching activities, serving as the guarantor of the master's course "*Research Training and Internship*" and teaching the course "*Tropical Phytocoenosis*".

Ladislav Kokoška

Prof. Kokoška has been working at the CZU since 1994, when he started his professional career as a technician at the Institute of Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture. From 2000-2007, he worked as an Assistant Professor, and since 2007, as docent at the Department of Crop Sciences and Agroforestry at the same institution. Thereafter, he received the position of full Professor in 2013. Currently, he lectures classes on Special Crops and Economic Botany. His research activities are focused primarily on biologically active compounds isolated from tropical and subtropical plants. Prof. Kokoška worked in many tropical countries such as Philippines, Cambodia, and Samoa. Prof. Kokoška is a member of the academic senates of CZU, and FTA, since 2011 and 2013, respectively. As a senator, he has long focused on increasing transparency, supporting internationalization, and implementing quality standards within the faculty.



Iva Kučerová

My name is Iva Kučerová, and I work as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences. I am also the Head of the Laboratory of Food Processing Technology, where I focus on both teaching and the practical development of students' skills in food processing and quality.

My long-term focus is on sustainable food systems, traditional food processing, and food security and quality, as well as on teaching, research, and international cooperation. In my scientific work, I focus on research in food processing and food quality, including publication activities and involvement in national and international projects.

Within my project work, I have experience with international projects as a coordinator and expert, as well as with national research projects (NAZV, GAČR, TAČR) as a financial manager. I emphasize the connection between research and teaching and the meaningful impact of research outcomes in practice.

At the faculty, I contribute to the organization of teaching, student supervision, and collaboration with international partner universities (e.g. in Bosnia and Herzegovina). I am also involved in developing courses, organizing summer schools, and coordinating student and staff mobility programs.

Program

I am a candidate for the Faculty Senate with the aim of contributing to a faculty that operates transparently, efficiently, and with a strong focus on quality. I am not a “politician” and do not aim to make broad or ambitious statements. Instead, I want to bring a perspective grounded in the everyday practice of teaching, research, and projects, support decision-making that makes sense for both students and staff, and contribute to open and constructive discussion.

Olga Leuner

Olga Leuner (Dpt. of Crop Science and Agroforestry) teaches courses on tropical crop production, storage and processing. Her research focuses on plant food technology, particularly the quality and processing of plant products with an emphasis on tropical crops.

With prior experience as Vice-Dean for Science, Research and Doctoral Studies, she brings practical understanding of faculty processes. She has been advocating for clearer and accurate financial reporting and stronger accountability in resource management. Through detailed review of the Financial Report for 2024, she helped identify savings exceeding 1 million CZK from the faculty’s budget.



She sees the Senate as a practical platform for dialogue, accountability and shared progress, focused on long-term development, responsible oversight and meaningful outcomes for staff and students. She emphasises open communication, fair conditions and constructive cooperation with faculty management, aiming to support an environment where people can do their work with confidence and satisfaction.

Tereza Pilařová

Tereza Pilařová studied at the FTA CZU Prague in the years 2010-2019 and after the successful defence of her doctoral thesis in June 2019, she joined the Department of Economic Development as an Assistant Professor. She guarantees the master's course "Data Analysis in Agricultural Economics" and three bachelor's courses: "Migration and Development," "International Sources of Information and Databases," and "Geography and World Agriculture," while also contributing to the teaching of several other courses. She is a member of the BESTA (Behavioral Studies in Agri-Food Sector) and TRACE (Tropical Farming Systems & Ecological Economics) research



teams. Her work focuses on international migration and development, as well as the adaptation of smallholder farmers to climate change. She was a co-investigator in various research projects, including BrightSpace and COST Action – Rural NEET Youth Network. She published 13 original research articles indexed on the Web of Science, with a total of 84 citations and an H-index of 4. Furthermore, she has successfully supervised 20 bachelor's and master's theses.

Zbyněk Polesný



Zbyněk Polesný, currently associate professor at the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, is actively involved in both teaching and research at the institution since 2001. He is a member of the Department of Crop Sciences and Agroforestry where he leads the team of the Tropical Botany and Ethnobiology Lab, which has a long term experience in research and development activities in tropical plants and crops from the perspective of ethnobotany, agrobiodiversity assessment and agronomy. He has completed fellowships at prestigious institutions in the field of tropical botany (e.g. HLAA, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew). Zbyněk has also long international experience as a teacher in a frame of the Erasmus Programme (e.g. at Ghent University). He is author or co-author of numerous publications focussed on tropical ethnobotany and ethnobiology, agrobiodiversity and agroforestry. As principal investigator, co-investigator or co-worker he has been involved in 2 international (1x Erasmus+ and 1x project of BMBF, Germany) and several national research and development projects mostly implemented in the tropics or subtropics (e.g. Peru, Vietnam, Kyrgyzstan, Zambia, Ethiopia). He is a member of The Society for Ethnobotany. He acts as an editorial board member of the journals Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, Journal of

Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine and Ethnobotany Research and Applications. In the period 2013-2019 he has been a member of FTA Academic Senate and represented FTA at the Academic Senate of CZU. In the Academic Senate, he intends to focus on proposing and supporting measures aimed at further internationalization of the FTZ, focussing on more frequent and long-term educational and research activities realized by the FTZ in the tropics.



Vladimir Verner

Vladimir Verner has been “on board” with the FTZ CZU since 2005. He co-founded and currently works at the Department of Economics and Development, serving as Deputy Head (2009–2012, 2020–present) and Head (2012–2020).

He deals with the economic and social aspects of sustainability, productivity, and resilience of farming systems, natural resources sustainable use, value chain development, and improved farmers’ livelihoods. These topics reflect his teaching and work with students.

At the FTZ, he is initiator and guarantor of the MSc study programme IDAE. He regularly delivers lectures at universities abroad.

He is actively involved in R&D projects in tropical and less developed regions and provides consultancy to int’l organisations (FAO, GFC, UNDP, EU, and CGIAR).

He has been a member of the Academic Senate of FTZ since 2013, promoting transparency and equal opportunities. He always supports the role of FTZ as an active and self-confident part within CZU and the international community.