Nominated Candidates from FTZ Academic Staff for the CZU Academic Senate Elections

Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences

Three representatives will be elected.

<u>List of candidates in alphabetical order:</u>

- Ing. Jiří Hejkrlík, Ph.D.
- prof. Ing. Ladislav Kokoška, Ph.D.
- Ing. Radim Kotrba, Ph.D.
- doc. Ing. Zbyněk Polesný, Ph.D.
- Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D.

Elections to the CZU Academic Senate 2026 – FTZ academic staff

Jiří Hejkrlík

Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences



Year of birth:

1976

Contact email:

hejkrlik@email.cz

Department of Economics and Development

Candidate characteristics:

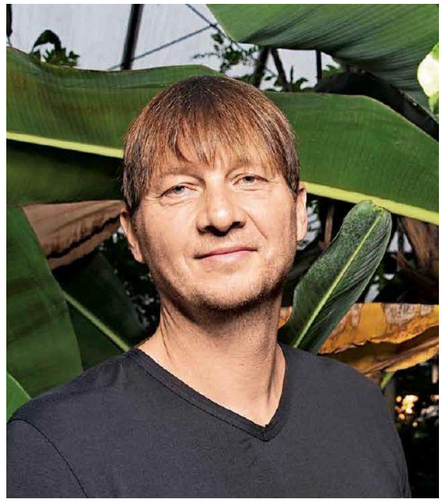
- 15 years as a **Vice-Dean for Education and Quality of FTZ**, with practical experience in the top management and implementation of education-related policies and budgeting of high schools
- 7 years as a member of the **Council for the Internal Quality Assurance of CZU**, with a good knowledge of the internal environment of CZU, inter-faculty dynamics and evaluation of the quality of educational and scientific progress
- 5 years as a representative of CZU in the **Council of Higher Education Institutions of the Czech Republic**, with a good overview of Czech educational policies and communication with the Ministry of Education
- Experience from 6 larger **international capacity building projects in higher education** (Erasmus, EuropeAid, CzechAid)

Priorities:

- **Navigating new Higher Education Reform** – Ensure a smooth and transparent transition to the potentially upcoming new Higher Education Act, drawing on my experience in university management and national higher education policymaking
- **Fair and Sustainable University Funding** – Promote transparent, equitable and performance-sensitive allocation of university resources across faculties, covering education, research and other academic activities
- **Strengthening the Role of the Academic Senate** – Advocate for a strong, independent and constructive Senate under the upcoming legislative reform, ensuring effective oversight, accountability and meaningful participation in strategic university decisions
- **Representing Students' Interests and Enhancing Education Quality** – Build on my long-standing experience as Vice-Dean to defend students' interests, strengthen the university's quality culture and improve the learning environment for Czech and international students

prof. Ing. Ladislav Kokoška, Ph.D.

Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences



Year of birth:

1971

Contact email:

kokoska@ftz.czu.cz

Department of Crop Sciences and Agroforestry

Candidate characteristics:

- he has been employed at the institution since 1994 (since 2013 as a full professor),
- since 2011, he has represented FTA academic staff in the Academic Senate (AS) of CZU, and since 2013, also in AS FTA,
- he has worked in a wide range of tropical regions (e.g., the Philippines, Cambodia, Samoa).

Priorities:

- transparency and fairness of management and professional processes supporting the quality of higher education,
- increasing the efficiency of research and development with an emphasis on the quality of doctoral studies,
- promoting internationalization, including the international environment at the institutional level,
- reducing the administrative burden on academic staff.

Radim Kotrba

Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences



Year of birth:

1974

Contact email:

kotrba@ftz.czu.cz

Department of Wildlife and Animal Sciences

Candidate characteristics:

- Employed at FTZ since 2003; establishment of antelope and guanaco breeding
- Chairman of AS FTZ (2013–2023), Chairman of AS ČZU (2021-2025)
- Experience in leading professional national and international associations and working groups
- Active member of the Forum of Chairmen of Academic Senates of Universities

Priorities:

- Strong voice of FTZ: fair funding and respect for the specifics of a smaller faculty
- Transparent distribution of the ČZU budget and control of management
- Promote a higher and predictable state contribution to budget of universities
- Defend the autonomy of universities, academic freedom and the decision-making role of senates in changes to the law

Elections to the CZU Academic Senate 2026 – FTZ academic staff

Zbyněk Polesný

Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences



Year of birth:

1973

Contact email:

polesny@ftz.czu.cz

Department of Crop Sciences and Agroforestry

Candidate characteristics:

- Tropical agronomist by training and scientist in ethnobotany and ethnobiology
- Head of Tropical Botany and Ethnobiology Lab at FTZ, and Honorary Visiting Professor at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
- Author or co-author of 42 papers (ORCID link) in JCR journals, H-index = 18
- Member of The Society for Ethnobotany, The International Society of Ethnobiology, and The Society of Herbarium Curators
- Editorial board member of *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*, *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, and *Ethnobotany Research and Applications*

Priorities:

- Support measures that contribute to creating a fair university environment at the CZU in all its aspects
- To contribute to the development and positive perception of **tropical** agricultural and environmental sciences at CZU in both national and international contexts

Vladimír Verner

Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences



Year of birth:
1976

Contact email:
vernerv@ftz.czu.cz

Department of Economics and Development

Candidate characteristics:

- professor associate, former Head of Department and member of AS FTZ
- familiar with QA/QC and management of universities in CR and abroad
- interested in CZU progress and the active and significant role of FTZ
- supporter of talented, dedicated and team-oriented

Priorities:

- effective labour division and responsibility in shaping CZU/FTZ future
- balanced partnership between the faculties and the Rector’s Office
- definition of excellence in research and support for collaboration within CZU
- communication with employees and active representation of FTZ