

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maria Stoyanova Dishkova - University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, regarding materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, scientific specialty "Methods of teaching music in kindergarten and primary school"

In the competition for "Associate Professor", announced in the State Newspaper, issue 107 of 16.12.2021 for the needs of the Department of Pedagogy and Teaching Methodology at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, as a candidate is Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova from the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

In the competition for "Associate Professor", announced in the State Newspaper, issue 107 of 16.12.2021 for the needs of the Department of Pedagogy and Teaching Methodology at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas, as a candidate is Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova from the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" – Burgas.

1. General presentation of the received materials.

By order № RD-35 of 27.01.2022. of the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury, as well as an author of an opinion in connection with the announced competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the same university in higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, scientific specialty "Methods of teaching music in kindergarten and primary school", announced for the needs of the Department of "Pedagogy and Teaching Methods" at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" – Burgas. Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova is the only candidate in the competition. Presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova documents and materials on the procedure are in full compliance with the requirements of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas. Presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova set of materials on paper and electronic media is in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas, and includes the following documents:

- application form to the Rector of the University;
- a copy of the competition announcement in the State Newspaper;
- CV;
- a copy of Diploma for educational and scientific degree "Doctor";
- a copy of Diploma for completed higher education;
- a copy of the Certificate of Qualification of a specialist with higher education (two-year qualification course);

- a copy of the Certificate for successfully completed training course for mediator;
- a copy of the Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- a copy of the Certificate that the candidate works on a basic employment contract at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas, since November, the 2-nd, 2018;
- a copy of the Medical Certificate;
- criminal record certificate;
- reference for educational and scientific activity;
- reference for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements according to art. 46 of PPZRASRB and compliance of the applicant with the minimum national requirements and with the additional requirements under Annex 1 of PURPNSZAD at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov";
- official notes for participation in project activities at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas and other organizations;
- reference for conducted classroom and extracurricular classes for the period 2020-2022 (reference for academic work);
- copies of Certificates from participation in conferences and other scientific forums;
- author's reference for original scientific contributions in the attached production;
- list of scientific papers (together with the publications themselves);
- reference to the citations;
- reference for participation in projects;
- habilitation work (in original);
- scientific publications (electronic);
- textbook (in original).

In the announced competition the only candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova presented the following materials: monography - (author's); textbook – 1 (author's); book on the basis of a doctorate – 1 (author's); scientific publications (articles and reports) 18 (author's), of which 8 in Bulgarian editions, 10 in foreign editions, 7 in editions with impact factor; participation in 1 national and 2 international (under the Erasmus program) research projects; participation with reports in 3 international and 1 national scientific forums. The pedagogical and creative activity of the candidate are presented respectively with: participation in 3 research projects, completed with scientific results; curriculum development; 13 taught disciplines (lecture course, exercises, educational practice) in the Bachelor's degree. All this is evidence of excellent teaching and creative activity, which is characterized by innovative thinking and productive interaction with students. The creative activity of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova is also represented by awards from competitions of private piano student Artur Kalchev, as well as his concert at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" on - 29.09.2020.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova is a tutor of Specialty Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy - a regular form of education in years of 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, as well as a scientific consultant of report, named: "The importance of music for the development of children in preschool age" at the Student Scientific Conference, 02.12.2021.

2. Brief biographical data of the candidate.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova was born on April 11, 1961, in the city of Burgas. Since 1980 until 1984 studied at the Bulgarian State Conservatory - State Academy of Music "Pancho Vladigerov" - Sofia (piano, solfeggio, elementary theory of music, harmony, chamber music). After that she continued his studies at Burgas Free University (1994-1996) - postgraduate qualification in management (management, marketing, accounting, business communications). In 2005 became a doctor of scientific specialty 05.07.03, Methodology of music education. In 2009 successfully completes a training course for mediators, from which she presents a certificate. Her work experience Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova began in 1984 (1984-2016) as a senior teacher at NUMSI "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov ", Burgas, where she teaches piano, compulsory piano, chamber music and piano methodology. Since 2010 until 2015 is a part-time lecturer at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, where she prepares and conducts seminars and practical exercises on musical instrument "piano" with students, specialty Preschool and primary school pedagogy - Bachelor's degree. Since 2016 until 2018 she is a part-time piano teacher at the "Veda" Primary Kindergarten in Sofia and the "Veda" Primary School, where she teaches basic skills in keyboard and piano playing, combined with singing and dancing activities for children from 3 to 8 years old. From 2018 is an assistant, and from 2020. - Ch. Assistant Professor at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas. Her interests of scientific researchs in the field of Methodology of music education in preschool and primary school education and Art pedagogy. Prepares and conducts lectures, seminars and practical exercises for students in the specialties Preschool pedagogy with a foreign language, Preschool and primary school pedagogy, Primary school pedagogy with a foreign language and Social pedagogy, Bachelor's degree.

3. General characteristics of the candidate's activity.

Assessment of educational and pedagogical activity - Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova has nearly ten years of teaching experience at the university. The obligatory lecture courses that she leads are mainly in the field of art pedagogy, methodology of musical activities in kindergarten, methodology of teaching music in primary school with students in Bachelor's degree in the specialties: Preschool pedagogy with a foreign language, Preschool and Primary school pedagogy, Primary school pedagogy with a foreign language and Social pedagogy, Bachelor's degree. The elective courses are oriented mainly to musical instruments, musical folklore in kindergartens and secondary schools, music for children and students, social prevention through musical folklore, socio-pedagogical mediation. Dr. Smilkova presents herself with great dignity with her clearly emphasized team behavior of a responsive colleague and inclusive lecturer. She infects the people around her with her creative outlook, her innovative ideas, her sense of beauty, her love of music.

4. Evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate.

The areas of scientific qualification and professional interest of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova, as can be seen from the published materials, are mainly in the field of elements of musical expression (№ 15,16 and 19 of the attached publications), development and improvement of "soft skills" in children in kindergarten, students in school and students in the university, through the use of various musical activities (№13, 14, 17, 18 and 20 of the attached publications), education and training of future listeners (№ 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12). This is most fully presented in her monographic study - "Instrumental music and its perception or Tell me music. Fantasy - creativity - audience". Scientific Publisher University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Gabrovo: "Ex-Press", 184 pages, ISBN 978-619-7559-21-7. The subject of research in the monography is the main musical activity or the conscious perception of music as a prerequisite for the development of creativity in children and students and as a preparation for understanding classical instrumental music. The monographic work consists two parts - theoretical and practical. The theoretical part makes it possible to define some basic concepts - musical language, structure of musicality, musical talent, basic musical abilities, perception as a basic musical activity. The practical part proposes a model of perception of instrumental musical works in preschool and primary school age, named "Tell me music". The pedagogical experience and the researches, realized by the author in the kindergarten, the primary school, as well as among students in the university, are described in details. The "Tell Me music" model includes various games and tasks for the development of musical abilities, creative thinking, imagination and visual representations of children, pupils and students. This is possible by adopting instrumental classical samples of world music culture. This helps the listeners to understand and comprehend the characteristics and specifics of the art of music, to feel its power and impact on the audience, to discover new opportunities for self-expression. The proposed model "Tell me music" also helps to maintain children's interest in the imagery of musical language, to create listening habits, to show personal initiative and commitment on the part of listeners, including the youngest ones. Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova emphasizes the role of the teacher in this process, which is the main provocateur of children's curiosity. The research was performed correctly and precisely, the results were analyzed adequately, good scientific language was used. The book has a clear style of presentation of the subject and can definitely serve the purpose of teaching in an academic environment.

Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied, applied). The monographic work is distinguished by many merits, among which are the originality of scientific research, systematic research, comprehensive presentation of the studied phenomena, a wealth of operational terms, many conclusions and summaries. The main contribution is in the successful realization and practical application of the model "Tell me music" through the preparation of various texts, surveys and creative tasks. The main goal is to stimulate and motivate personal expression and initiative, as well as the manifestations of creativity on the part of children, pupils and students. As general characteristics of the habilitation work and the other publications proposed by Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova, the topicality of the theme, the originality in its development, systematic work, creative outlook, skillful combination of standard and specific research methods can be pointed out. The individual publications categorically expand the thematic aspects and address some important issues in the field of perception and interpretation of musical works, as well as the influence of music on the overall formation of personality. In addition, the textbook for students and teachers "Creative tasks for the

development of imagination through the perception of instrumental music" (Scientific Publisher University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov ", Gabrovo: Ex-Press, 72 pages, ISBN: 978 -619-7559-22-4) includes written works of students from pedagogical specialties, realized on the basis of assignments set by Dr. Smilkova, which are overexposed through personal life experience, fantasy, imagination, creativity. The tasks are divided into several main groups, which allows their optimal performance. The contribution significance is found in the methodical sequence of the set tasks, their realization and the sharing of the student's works with a positive practical, pedagogical and creative example.

5. Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate.

In summary, it can be said that through the presented works Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova presents herself as an author, creator and researcher with solid theoretical and methodological training. The ideas it generates are productive and applicable in practice to lead to extremely positive and lasting results. Data from this type of research enriches pedagogical science and can be used as a starting point for further research. In the framework of several joint creative events at the University and in the building of the Municipality of Burgas, namely concerts organized by Dr. Smilkova with the participation of students and teachers, she made an unforgettable impression on me with her musical talent, passion, infectious attitude towards the music, with the inspiration and dedication he works with.

My recommendation to Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Smilkova is mainly focused on organizing and conducting more creative and cultural events - an activity that the candidate has proven to perform extremely competently and successfully so far, because they are very useful for all participants: children, pupils, students, teachers, lecturers. These events charge with positive emotions, inspire, energize, stimulate the imagination, improve the general atmosphere, create mood and humanize the relations in the team.

Personal impressions of candidate.

My personal impressions of the candidate's work and performances are that Dr. Smilkova inspires the people around her with her creative thinking, professional aspiration, positive energy charge, pedagogical optimism. She attracts the attention of the audience with her skills of a charismatic speaker and an interesting interlocutor. In addition, she is a responsive colleague, and in relation to students she has already established herself as a dignified, erudite and authoritative lecturer with high scientific competence.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion I am convinced of my position as a member of the scientific jury and as the author of an opinion that I support the occupation of the respective academic position "Associate Professor" by the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova. The documents and materials presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova, meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the implementation of the ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas. The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers and all scientometric indicators have been met. The original scientific and applied contributions are visible, moreover, they have received national and international recognition, as evidenced by

their publication in scientific journals published by international academic publishers. Theoretical developments undoubtedly have practical applicability.

The scientific and teaching qualification of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova is indisputable. Her educational activity leads to proven results, which is clear in the materials and publications provided in the competition. After getting acquainted with them, as well as after analyzing their significance and discovering the scientific and applied contributions, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" for election of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, scientific specialty "Methods of teaching music in kindergarten and primary school".

March, 31, 2022

Author of the Statement: .

Burgas

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maria Stoyanova Dishkova/