

Controlling mechanisms of education of slovak universities

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Abstract The contribution focuses on the characteristics of the environment that affect universities and universities that provide higher education in the Slovak Republic. Higher education is provided through study programs. In order, for the study programs to be provided, the relevant college must go through, or the university pass through a complex accreditation process and demonstrate qualitative, material and personnel security. The educational process in Slovakia is currently undergoing many professional discussions, which should result in proposals for change. The paper addresses the characteristics of the environment as it is currently valid.

Keywords accreditation, university, study program

1. INTRODUCTION

University studies in the Slovak Republic are realized on 20 public universities, 3 state universities and 1 private higher education institution. Since the results of the accreditation process, the relevant university is ranked among universities, for this reason a part of universities is a university and this name is indicated directly in their name. Organization of higher education is strictly regulated. The activities of universities and universities are supervised and regulated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. The appointment of a higher education institution between higher education institutions is carried out based on criteria proposed by the Accreditation Commission, which are approved by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport after the authorities' representatives express their views. Likewise, the Accreditation Commission grants the right to carry out a study program at a university and college.

2. THE ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

The Accreditation Commission is an advisory body of the Government of the Slovak Republic. It consists of 21 members, appointed and dismissed by the Government on a proposal by the

Minister following the expression of the bodies of the representation of universities. The members are appointed from leading personalities from universities, scientific and scientific institutions, and members of the Accreditation Commission are also foreign experts. Various working groups may be set up to carry out activities, members of which are experts in the relevant department.

The establishment and operation of the Accreditation Commission in the Slovak Republic is regulated by Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments to Certain Acts as amended (Section 81 Accreditation Commission). Within the meaning of this regulation, the Accreditation Commission monitors, evaluates and independently evaluates and enhances the quality of higher education, research, development, arts and other creative activities of colleges, comprehensively assesses the conditions under which these activities are carried out at individual universities and draws up recommendations for improvement the work of colleges.

The Accreditation Commission under that legislation may inform the public of its findings, what it does by publishing the minutes of each meeting. During the meeting, he / she can comment on these activities of the universities, colleges such as:

- the capacity of a college to carry out a study program entitling its graduates to an academic degree,
- the capacity of a non-university institution to participate in the conduct of a doctoral study program,
- the capacity of a university to carry out habilitation procedures and appointments for professors,
- Proposals for the establishment, merger, merger, division, cancellation, change of name or change of the seat of a public higher education institution, a state university, a faculty of public higher education or a faculty of a state university
- Proposals for the granting of state approval to a legal entity wishing to act as a private college,
- Proposals for change in the set of study departments,
- To fulfil the criteria of the public higher education institution for evaluating the fulfilment of the conditions for obtaining a scientific-pedagogical title or artistic-pedagogical title "associate professor" and the criteria of the public higher

education institution for evaluating the fulfilment of the conditions for obtaining the scientific-pedagogical title or the artistic-pedagogical title "professor", approved by the Scientific Council of Public college at the suggestion of the ministry,

- Further proposals on higher education submitted by the Minister.

The Accreditation Commission is a strong regulator of the quality of higher education in the Slovak Republic. In view of the fact that it is the advisory body of the Government, and hence also the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport, according to the legislation, the Ministry has in its hands a tool for increasing the quality of university studies.

3. CONTROLLING EDUCATION IN HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

Comprehensive accreditation of the activities of the college is carried out at six-year intervals, in accordance with the previously announced comprehensive accreditation plan drawn up by the Accreditation Commission. In the framework of the comprehensive accreditation of the activities of the college, following its long-term intention, the Accreditation Commission will thoroughly assess and evaluate the educational, research, development, artistic and other creative activities of the college as well as the personnel, technical, informational and other conditions in which this activity is carried out, and expresses the demands of the college for the accreditation of all study programs and the accreditation of all habilitation procedures and the appointment of professors in which the college wants to have the corresponding rights. Based on the submitted documents, which accounted for about 3000 pages for the accreditation of one study program, the working groups express their opinion on the fulfilment of the specified criteria. In the case of the last comprehensive accreditation, which took place in 2015, the required materials were submitted in electronic form, which greatly influenced the possibility of processing the documents and their subsequent evaluation. Although the publication of individual teachers can be found in the Central Register of Publications, the employment ratios of individual employees in universities can be verified in the Register of the employees of the universities, the guarantors of individual study programs can be verified in the Register of guarantors), high schools are always preparing for comprehensive accreditation.

Because the College is dependent on the decision of the Accreditation Commission to carry out study programs, every college must adapt its internal activity to this fact. In the first place, the university professors, who are at the same time prominent experts in the given field of study, must have a professor, associate professor, must have professional assistants who are able to engage and educate students, they must have premises where they will carry out their activities and, finally, have to have students who want to be educated in a given field.

The assessment of the qualitative level of individual employees is governed by the internal regulations of each higher education institution separately. At the University of Economics in Bratislava, such an evaluation is carried out according to a separate internal directive which is binding on university staff - teachers ("Concretizing the work obligations in the field of publications and scientific research activities of EU staff in Bratislava in the following positions: professor, extraordinary professor, associate professor professional assistant "in connection with § 75 par. 4,5,7 and 8 of Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education Institutions and on amendments to certain laws as amended) and according to a

separate internal directive intended for scientific staff, once every two years. The evaluation considers the publication activity created during the period under review, with emphasis on the outputs in the magazines and publishing monographs in foreign renowned publishers. The evaluation of the publishing activity is evaluated by the Dean of the relevant faculty based on outputs from the Central Register of Publication Activities. In the event of non-fulfilment of some of the required criteria (i.e. non-disclosure in the above category), the employee is notified in writing to demonstrate the fulfilment of the required criteria within a term specified by the Dean.

Such an evaluation of the publication activity took place at the University of Economics in 2009, and since then the internal directive has been revised twice (in 2013 and 2016), due to the tightening of the publishing criteria for obtaining a higher education institution between universities. The results of the qualitative assessment of the employees within the individual attestations are also a tool for the selection of individual employees. Deans of individual faculties can use this tool to measure the quantity and quality of the publication activity of their employees. Teacher publishing is important in the accreditation process for several reasons. The quantity of publication activity is one of the criteria for allocating funds from the state budget to a college. The quality of the publication activity is presented by the university teachers because of their scientific research activities.

At the beginning of 2017, the material Teaching Slovakia was presented, which was to provide comprehensive education in the Slovak Republic for all types of educational institutions, from kindergartens to colleges. The document was not approved by the authorities of the higher education institutions and was commented on by 3975 inputs. The document shall be read:

- Inadequate provision of sufficient funds to implement measures,
- The assumption of the minimum establishment of 20 different commissions, where it is not always clear who will be the member, who will appoint them, how many members they will have and what their opinion will be binding,
- Enabling universities to obtain institutional accreditation or accreditation of the curriculum while conditions are not yet known,
- Ensuring that the status and operation of the Accreditation Agency conform to the European Standards and ESG Recommendations (www.minedu.sk), to request ENQA for the international accreditation of the Accreditation Agency.

Despite the non-recommendation by the authorities of the university representatives (Rector's Conference, University Student Council and Higher Education Council), a proposal for the establishment of the Accreditation Agency, an amendment to a university study was prepared and submitted, and continuing to incorporate the comments and the realization of the Teaching Slovakia program.

4. CONCLUSION

It is important for each university and college to have its internal quality control system in line with educational standards and, of course, to follow it and check it at regular intervals. To ensure the quality of education, the Guarantors' Councils have been set up to work within individual study programs, including guarantors, lecturers in each study program, graduates of a study program. As an example of the result of the work in one field of study, it is possible to mention meetings in expert forums (Šlosárová, A., 2010)

discussion about possibilities of improvement (Kicová, M. - Feketeová, R. 2007) and suggestions for improvement of teaching (Husárová, S. - Tumpach, M. - Števková, L., 2009), (Kubščiková, Z., 2014), (Vašeková, M., 2012), respectively. proposals for modification of individual subjects in close co-operation with the requirements of practice (Mateášová, M. - Meluchová, M., 2014). The comments were gradually incorporated into the study and considered when creating the study programs (Baštincová, A., 2009). Discussions on the quality of teaching are similarly taking place in all study programs at the University of Economics in Bratislava

On the professional side, the quality of university studies is guaranteed by study program guarantors, together with pedagogical staff, who publish their outputs in various scientific and professional forums, in the form of publication outputs. Based on the quality of the outputs and the number of students, each college, University contribution from the state budget, which is intended to cover the expenses related to the operation of a college, respectively. University. However, these resources are insufficient to cover all the requirements. For this reason, all state universities would welcome the increase in the amount of funds allocated to education from the budget, thus increasing the allocation to individual universities and universities. An increased allocation would compensate for the opening scissors not only between the home and abroad education environment but also the wage costs of domestic and foreign pedagogical staff.

Appropriations to be allocated within the budget are regulated by the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic. Within the scope of the ministry, as stated at its web site, there is also the "Value-for-Money Department, through which it promotes the adoption of good decisions in the public interest, thus improving the results of the Slovak public sector. The work of the department includes, in the reform of rules, the setting up of processes and the strengthening of institutions, with the main outputs being the revision of public spending. " The meaning of "value for money" is thus an effort to increase the value that the public receives for its money. In the case of allocating funds to schools, it is questionable whether they are spent at a sufficient level to achieve the stated goal. Higher education institutions cannot currently concentrate solely on providing value in the form of education to their students - future graduates, in many cases they must address the existence problems. Given the low value of the funds allocated, universities and universities deal with emergency situations, inaccessible premises and the lack of material equipment for research and development to the detriment of the allocation of funds to education.

Despite these unfavourable financial conditions, the graduates of the University of Economics in Bratislava have long been among the graduates who are seeking practice (<http://firma.profesia.sk>). The constant emphasis on improving the quality of education has a direct impact on the growth of interest for graduates of the University of Economics in Bratislava, who do not have a problem finding a qualified job.

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