

**Academic Senate of the Faculty of Social Studies  
Masaryk University**

Minutes of the 209<sup>th</sup> meeting, September 14, 2020

The meeting was held online on the Zoom platform.

**Present (in alphabetical order):**

- Ing. Rudolf Burgr, Ph.D.
- Mgr. Mikuláš Černík
- Sonya Darrow
- Mgr. Otto Eibl, Ph.D.
- Mgr. and Mgr. Vratislav Havlík, Ph.D.
- Bc. Daniel Jirků
- Katarína Kováčová
- doc. Mgr. and Mgr. Peter Spáč, Ph.D.
- doc. Mgr. and Mgr. Jan Šerek, Ph.D.

**Guests:**

- prof. PhDr. Stanislav Balík, Ph.D.
- doc. PhDr. Roman Chytilék, Ph.D.
- Ing. Pavlína Kadlčková, DiS.
- Mgr. et Mgr. Adéla Souralová, Ph.D.
- PhDr. Petr Suchý, Ph.D.
- doc. PhDr. Martin Vaculík, Ph.D.

**Absent:**

- Bc. Barbora Adamková
- doc. Mgr. and Mgr. Oldřich Krpec, Ph.D.

**Agenda:**

- 1) Conditions of the Admission Procedure of the FSS MU in the academic year 2021/22 - Bachelor study programs
- 2) Adjustment of the FSS MU Budget for 2020
- 3) Miscellaneous

The program was approved (9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained from voting).

**1) Conditions of the Admission Procedure of the FSS MU in the academic year 2021/22 - Bachelor study programs**

*Dean:* He presented the Conditions of the Admission Procedure of the FSS MU in the academic year 2021/22 for the Bachelor study programs. They combine the effort to fulfill several goals: 1) To select [Masarykova univerzita](#), [Fakulta sociálních studií](#), [Akademický senát](#)

such applicants that will match the profile of the faculty in the best way; 2) to select such candidates who will be able to complete their studies properly and on time; 3) to ensure the fairest possible admission procedure. All three aspects are important, the submitted Conditions of the Admission Procedure focus on the second one, but other aspects must also be considered.

*Vice-Dean Souralová:* She added that the submitted Conditions of the Admission Procedure are very similar to those from last year, with the exception of the newly introduced third option in the form of admission only on the basis of Scio-ZSV (Basics of Social Sciences) test. The option was discussed in the Admission procedure working group.

One of the motives for introducing this third option is also an effort to reduce the economic burden of the admission procedure.

The Department of Psychology made critical comments of a psychometric nature, other departments appreciated this option.

*Šerek:* He concluded that the problem with the introduction of the third variant is due to the fact that the scores are in principle incomparable. Currently, scores automatically favor candidates who fill in only this variant, according to him, this is a violation of the fairness of admission procedure. Most applicants do not know this logic, the admission procedure is not transparent in this respect. He suggested that the Conditions presented should be returned to the Admission procedure working group for a correction to eliminate the unfairness. (Corrective) tools can be invented to correct this fundamental inequality of the three options. Then it can be discussed whether the admission procedure works set up in this way.

*Spáček:* He said that the third option would allow less knowledgeable but more fortunate candidates to be accepted.

*Dean:* He pointed out that the faculty made specific legal decisions based on the test result and that it is not sure whether the statistical corrections would stand up to the administrative court. The chosen option of performing the entrance exam - including the variant of admission without the entrance exam examinations through the SOČ competition - is the result of the free decision of the candidates.

*Spáček:* He pointed out that individual candidate with the same level of knowledge would not have the same chance of admission to study with each of the three options.

*Havlík:* He stated that the faculty should not want to exclude any type of applicants for study, even those with significant above-average background of the Basics of Social Sciences, even those with significantly below-average.

*Dean:* He stated that the decisive moment for maintaining the option of the single Scio-ZSV test was that more than nine hundred candidates, who have also paid for the Scio-OSP (General study predispositions) tests, were interested in only recognizing their results of the Scio-ZSV test. The management of the faculty wanted to make the admission procedure more open, and to eliminate great social inequalities that are embedded in it. This led to this intermediate step, this is certainly not the final state of the debate on the admission procedure that should take place. The submitted form of

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the Conditions of the Admission Procedure was supported by six of the seven departments of the faculty, which perceived the dimension of decreasing the property census and the potential to function as a PR, albeit aware of the existence of these problems.

*Spáček:* He asked if it would be possible to analyze the effects of the single Scio-ZSV option in comparison with the other options.

*Dean:* He replied that this was one of the reasons why the Strategy Department had been set. Newly opened admission procedure this year, however, will be very non-standard, it is not clear what conclusions would be possible to draw in the relationship to the entrance exams. The management of the faculty wanted to know the relation between the results in the admission procedure and the results of the study for a long time, the elaborated materials showed that there is not a significant difference in predictive ability in TSP and ZSV. The faculty management wants the data analysis to continue.

*Burgr:* He said that there were similar doubts within the working group, but there was a majority agreement on adding the third option, with the proviso that it is necessary to find a better model throughout the forthcoming academic year.

*Šerek:* He called it pointless to accept the form of the admission procedure, which is objectively wrong, unfair, and that favors applicants only on the basis of choosing a certain variant without knowledge of a broader context and which may damage the reputation of the faculty. The working group should have enough time to come up with another solution.

*Vice-Dean Souralová:* She asked the student chamber of the AS for an opinion.

*Jirků:* He stated that he perceives the now proposed form as a solution that is very open to students and that should help to a "more relaxed" course of the admission procedure. He is not against the trial of the option of the Scio-ZSV test, however, he agrees that it should be viewed from a longitudinal perspective and look for a solution for the coming years.

*Černík:* He described the possibility of entering academia to a wider scale of applicants due to reducing the economic complexity of the admission procedure of as a strong argument, on the other hand he is being convinced by the models according to which the probability of guessing answers fundamentally changes the conditions between the different variants.

*Vice-Dean Chytilék:* He returned to the psychometric level of the debate and agreed that taking two tests should manage to reduce the factor of fortune better than only one test. However, the problem is overestimated. The Scio-ZSV test is not a single item, it consists of several sections, comparing a number of items. If the theoretical debate would translate into how many other students the faculty actually accepted, the number would be negligible.

*Šerek:* He pointed out that the number of items is not relevant, it is a fundamental problem in relation to the overall test results from the perspective of the top performances. Even a small percentage of damage students is unfairness, which has an impact on their further lives.

*Eibl*: He expressed his confidence in that all bodies were trying to find the best solution, he personally honors the opinion of all other heads of departments and disciplines who worked with the same information as the Department of Psychology, which has a dissenting opinion on this matter.

*Šerek*: He objected that in such a case the AS does not have to be there, if its only purpose is to sanctify the decision of other instances, each of its members is equipped with its own reason and should try to critically evaluate the presented arguments.

*Burgr*: Given the short time available for changes, he suggested that the AS approve the submitted Conditions of the Admission Procedure or they should be submitted for approval in the same form as so far.

*Kováčová*: She stated that the working group should focus on the best possible scenarios from data obtained from the actual use of all three possible test options. For her personally, the socio-economic factor is the strongest one. It can be very confusing for potential applicants, if the faculty changes the form of the conditions of the admission procedure every year.

#### **Resolution:**

***AS FSS MU discussed and approved the Conditions of the Admission Procedure of the FSS MU in the academic year 2021/22 for the Bachelor study programs as amended by the minutes.***

***(4 in favor, 1 against, 4 abstained from voting)***

Conditions of the Admission Procedure of the FSS MU in the academic year 2021/22 - Bachelor study programs were **not** accepted.

## **2) Adjustment of the FSS MU Budget for 2020**

*Secretary*: She presented a proposal to adjust the FSS MU Budget for the calendar year 2020. This adjustment consists of a dissolving part of the allocated reserve from the funds allocated to departments and research institutes in the total amount of CZK 11,165,000.

*Burgr*: He expressed his doubts on the procedural side of the proposed adjustment as it refers to formally non-existent rules.

#### **Resolution:**

**AS FSS MU discussed and approved the proposal to adjust the FSS MU Budget for calendar year 2020.**

***(8 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstained from voting)***

## **3) Miscellaneous**

### **a. Selection of student representatives to Program Boards**

*Jirků*: He informed about the ongoing process of selecting student representatives for Program Boards of Political Science, Security and Strategic Studies and Cultural Sociology study programs.

**b. The course of the autumn semester at the FSS**

*Dean:* He stated that the management of the faculty would not want to accept any restrictions beyond the measures taken at the state and MU level in relation to the course of the autumn semester. If there is no regulations of the buildings at the university level, the FSS building will remain open to students and employees as long as it is hygienically possible. More detailed instructions would be released soon. If the teaching was carried out completely in online form, it would be mandatory and would take place according to the schedule, unless MU stipulates otherwise. Teachers were encouraged to prepare syllabi of their courses so that they would not have to change them during the possible transition to online teaching.

*Eibl:* In conclusion, he thanked everyone present for attending and stated that the date of the next meeting would be decided through a vote in doodle.

**Resolutions adopted:****2020-9-14 / 1****AS FSS MU discussed and approved the proposal to adjust the FSS MU Budget for the calendar year 2020.****(8 for, 0 against, 1 abstention)**

Mgr. Otto Eibl, Ph.D.  
President of the Senate

doc. Mgr. and Mgr. Jan Šerek, Ph.D.  
Vice-President of the Senate

Bc. Daniel Jirků  
Vice-President of the Senate

Minutes taken by: Kristýna Bláhová  
Translated by: Bc. Veronika Dombrovská