

REPORT ON THE DOSSIER FOR THE APPOINTMENT AS PROFESSOR OF THE INAUGURATION OF

Dr. h. c. doc. Mgr. Slávka Tomaščíková, PhD

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I would like to start by thanking the Faculty of Arts at the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (UPJŠ) for having invited me to act as a reviewer of the inauguration of Dr. h. c. doc. Mgr. Slávka Tomaščíková, PhD, who has applied for the appointment as professor at that University. It is my honour and my pleasure to carry out this task as I have known the candidate for almost two decades and she has always proved to be a very hard-working person, an exceptional researcher and teacher, and a very committed member of her University and Department, as well as a good and loyal friend to her colleagues.

I will be dividing this report into three parts: One devoted to the candidate's teaching activities; another dedicated to her research performance, and the last one focused on her management and organisation activities.

1. TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Slávka Tomaščíková has been lecturing at university for over twenty-five years. First, as an assistant lecturer at the University of Prešov, from 1994 to 2007, and then, from 2006 to the present time, at the UPJŠ, where she started as an assistant lecturer until she became associate professor in 2009. Her commitment to the UPJŠ can be seen in the fact that she has been Head of the Department of British and American Studies since 2008, among other positions, as will be mentioned later.

Her area of interest has always been around British Cultural Studies, as well as the interpretation of media texts with a focus on social aspects. Most of the courses taught at BA level are related to the culture and society in the British Isles, often with special attention to gender and media issues. Some courses are also addressed to instruct students in their research projects and their BA theses. The MA courses taught by Slávka Tomaščíková cover more specific aspects of Cultural Studies, such as the meaning and interpretation of media texts, as well as some courses oriented to teach some critical theories and research methodologies in this area of studies. Consequently, she has covered all the levels of higher education and most aspects within her area of teaching expertise.

Although halfway between teaching and research activities, I would also like to mention the high number of doctoral dissertations supervised by Slávka Tomaščíková, a total of fourteen, both at home and abroad. Five of them as part of the UPJŠ double PhD diploma in which several important European universities are involved. Currently, she is supervising four further doctoral dissertations.

Impressive as her teaching performance has been so far, in my opinion, an extremely relevant feature in her activities is the drive she has shown to open new teaching paths so that the Department and University can move forward. As explained in Annex 10, Slávka Tomaščíková has played an essential role in the introduction and implementation, first of the double MA degree programmes with double diplomas with two European universities, and later of the double PhD degree programme with double diplomas along with seven European universities. This has been accompanied by the preparations of new study programmes for some of the courses. Her negotiation with the British Council, on the one hand, and the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia, on the other, has made possible both the setting up of a testing centre for international language tests and the practices of simultaneous interpreting in institutions, companies and conferences for students of Translation and Interpretation. University students at different levels, as well as the general public have benefited from these initiatives. The introduction and implementation of the compulsory optional course Skills for Success – From University to Workplace has also favoured the integration of university students in the labour market.

Slávka Tomaščíková has often taught abroad, mostly as part of the Erasmus+ exchange programme, but also as a guest, lecturing at several important universities. At the same time, she has been president, member or reviewer for the defence of several PhD dissertations both at home and abroad. She has also been chair or a member of several state examination boards at BA and MA level.

Finally, she has also published a variety of interesting, useful teaching material as well as academic textbooks that have been widely used in several of the courses taught by her or other colleagues in the Department, which shows her capacity for putting together and presenting essential, well-structured information for students.

All in all, and in accordance to what has been said above, I highly value the teaching performance of the candidate, Slávka Tomaščíková.

2. RESEARCH PERFORMANCE

Slávka Tomaščíková has published widely on different areas, although most of her publications are related to her field of interest: British Cultural Studies, with a focus on media studies. She has written on her own or as co-author at least two monographs published abroad, and a third one published in Slovakia, and has also contributed with chapters to around thirty collective works published both in Slovakia and abroad in well-known, prestigious publishing houses such as Peter Lang, Cambridge Scholars Publishing and Walter de Gruyter. Part of Slávka Tomaščíková's research has been presented in journals, national and international, all of them peer-reviewed and some of them registered either in Web of Science or SCOPUS, proving the high quality of her work. At the same time, she has carried out editorial tasks both for journals and collective monographs. Needless to say that some of this work has been extremely innovative and ground-breaking in her area of expertise, which has granted her countless citations, as proved in several of the documents presented in this dossier.

The candidate has attended a very relevant number of national and international conferences where she has delivered papers as well as keynotes, some of which have been published in proceedings or, once revised and extended, in journals and collective monographs. An important landmark in her research performance is the organisation of several national and international conferences attended by both prestigious and early-career researchers, thus giving many people the opportunity to disseminate their work and to learn from other colleagues.

Another research area in which the candidate stands out is her participation in several research projects either as a team member or as principal investigator, covering a great variety of topics in linguistics, literature and cultural studies. Some of these projects are related to institutional, but also timely issues such as sustainability and gender equality in medium-sized universities. Others have addressed pedagogical innovation and the improvement of quality at the level of higher education in European universities, thus linking teaching and research. But she has also evaluated projects of Slovak research grand agencies such as VEGA and KEGA, and has written many reviews assessing research carried out by other colleagues. She has also participated in many conference scientific committees and has been a member of the editorial board of several international journals

Slávka Tomaščíková's research work has been complemented by translations of literary and non-literary texts, the writing of some reviews, as well as forewords and prologues for the books of other colleagues with whom she has worked closely.

The amount and the quality of the research carried out by Slávka Tomaščíková are really impressive and deserving of a high position within the academia.

3. MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION ACTIVITIES

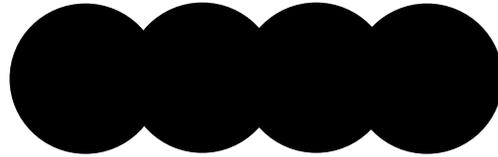
Not all excellent lecturers and researchers find the time or energy to carry out management and organisation activities; this has not been the case of Slávka Tomaščíková. As hinted at above, her commitment with the Department of British and American Studies, where she has been Head for over thirteen years and has implemented so many new programmes, is undeniable. At the same time, she has performed several tasks of great responsibility within the UPJŠ among which stands out her four years as Vice-Rector for International Relations, from 2011 to 2015, but also other positions in several boards.

Slávka Tomaščíková has also acquired international reputation and prestige as the president of SKASE, the Slovak Association for the Study of English, from 2003, but especially as a member of the Board of the European Society for the Study of English, and specifically as its Secretary between 2008 and 2013, where her work was greatly appreciated.

All the academic achievements so far mentioned, and many others stated in the documents presented by the candidate, have granted Slávka Tomaščíková a number of awards, among which the award as Doctor Honoris Causa by the Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine, in 2018 stands out.

As stated in Annex 12, the candidate, Dr. h. c. doc. Mgr. Slávka Tomaščíková, PhD., complies by far with the criteria for awarding her the scientific and educational degree of professor in her field of study, which I heartily support.

Signed:

A redacted signature consisting of four overlapping black circles.

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