

REGULATION OF THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY ON DOCTORAL STUDIES

Pursuant to Act 131/2002 Coll. on higher education and on the amendment of certain acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Higher Education"), and in order to implement those provisions that apply to doctoral studies, I hereby issue the following regulation:

Article 1 Initial provisions

- (1) The Regulation on Doctoral Studies is an internal regulation of the Faculty of Theology based in Košice, Catholic University in Ružomberok (hereinafter referred to as TF KU) and describes the procedures, rules, planning, implementation, documentation, recording and evaluation of doctoral study processes.
- (2) The Regulation is based on external and internal documentation for individual processes. External documentation includes: Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on higher education, as amended, Decree of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic No. 614/2002 Coll. on the credit system of studies, as amended. Internal documentation includes: the Statute of KU and TF KU, the Study Rules of KU and TF KU, the Organisational Rules of KU and TF KU, the Rector's Regulation No. 2/2017 on the requisites of final, rigorous and habilitation theses, their bibliographic registration, authenticity check, storage and accessibility.
- (3) This Regulation is binding for all teaching, scientific, technical and economic staff of TF KU involved in the processes regulated by this standard, as well as for all doctoral students of the TF KU.

ORGANIZATION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

Article 2 Doctoral studies preparation

- (1) The organization of the studies begins with preparation, which is based on accreditation of the study programme.
- (2) The faculty shall establish a departmental committee for each study programme by a special regulation. The departmental committee shall monitor and evaluate doctoral studies. The faculty may agree with another faculty or an external educational institution to set up a joint departmental committee ("Departmental Committee"). The dean shall appoint the Departmental Committee based on the proposal of the faculty's Scientific Council. The Departmental Committee shall consist of a chairperson and at least four other members. At least one of the members must have the scientific and pedagogical title of Professor, the scientific title of Doctor of Sciences or be a researcher with the qualification degree I. The other members may be associate professors (*docent*), visiting professors, visiting assistant professors or staff members with the academic title of PhD.

(3) The Departmental Committee, led by its chairperson and in cooperation with lecturers, then submits a draft list of thesis supervisors for each study programme to the faculty's Scientific Council for approval. The vice-dean for science and research shall invite approved dissertation thesis supervisors to offer dissertation thesis topics. This shall be done each academic year. Proposed dissertation topics shall be submitted by the supervisors to the vice-dean for science and research and approved by the chair of the relevant Departmental Committee.

Article 3

Admission procedure for doctoral studies

(1) At least two months before the deadline for applications for doctoral studies, the faculty shall publish the conditions for admission to doctoral studies together with thesis topics for all study programmes for which admission is open; if the topic is offered by an external educational institution, the name of this institution shall also be indicated. The relevant supervisor shall be indicated next to each topic. The deadline for applications shall also be published. The dissertation thesis topics, together with the abovementioned requirements, shall be published on the official notice board.

(2) Applicants may submit applications for doctoral studies within the deadline in the form recommended by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, which is accompanied by annexes according to the guidelines published by the faculty.

(3) Applicants may also propose their own topic in the application form. This is subject to the agreement of the intended supervisor and the chair of the relevant Departmental Committee (expressed at the latest during the entrance examination).

(4) After verifying the completeness of the submitted application, the dean shall invite the applicant in writing to the entrance examination.

(5) The entrance examination shall be held before an admissions board consisting of a chairperson and at least two members appointed by the dean of TF KU based on the proposal of the chairperson of the Departmental Committee. In case a candidate has selected a topic offered by an external educational institution, a representative of the external educational institution shall also be a member of the admissions board.

(6) The entrance examination usually consists of two parts. The first part assesses the applicant's basic knowledge based on the relevant study programme and the knowledge of the foreign language of the applicant's choice. At the board's discretion, the assessment of applicants' knowledge may take place in written or oral form. In the second part, the applicant shall submit their dissertation thesis project according to the chosen topic.

(7) The admissions board shall evaluate the result of the entrance examination in closed session. If several candidates have applied for the same topic, the board shall determine their ranking according to the success of their entrance examination. It shall also take into account the extent and quality of the applicant's professional publications or artistic activities and the results of other professional or artistic activities. A record shall be drawn up of the result of the entrance examination. The board shall submit a proposal for admission of the successful

candidate to the dean. If the topic was offered by an external educational institution, that institution must give its consent to the candidate's admission.

(8) Based on the results of the entrance examination, the dean shall decide on the admission of the applicant within 8 working days from the date of the entrance examination. A candidate who has received a decision not to be admitted to doctoral studies may submit a request for a review of this decision.

(9) The accepted applicant shall become a student of doctoral studies on the day of enrolment, the date of which shall be determined by the dean of TF KU.

Article 4

Position of full-time and part-time doctoral students

(1) Doctoral studies are carried out in full-time or part-time form. Both forms of doctoral studies are equal. The full-time form of study requires, in particular, regular presence of the doctoral student at the faculty, participation in its scientific and professional life, consultation with the supervisor and publication of the results of scientific and professional activities.

(2) Full-time doctoral students are generally present at the educational institute on a daily basis to carry out their assigned tasks. Short-term absence of a full-time doctoral student may be excused by the supervisor or the head of department, or in exceptional cases by the vice-dean for science and research, who shall notify the supervisor. Exceptions for long-term or regular absence of a doctoral student for reasons of scientific activity or activities outside the educational institute shall be approved by the vice-dean for science and research after the supervisor and the head of department have given their opinion.

(3) Part of the full-time doctoral studies is the performance of pedagogical activities or other professional activities related to pedagogical activities to the extent of no more than four hours per week on average per academic year in which the teaching takes place. Doctoral students shall carry out their teaching activities under the supervision of their supervisor and the head of the department.

(4) Doctoral students in the full-time form of study perform, in addition to direct teaching activities and basic study and scientific duties, other activities related to the requirements of the institute where they are placed. The type and scope of these activities shall be determined by the head of the department in agreement with the supervisor and the doctoral student.

(5) In the last year of doctoral studies, a doctoral student may be released from direct teaching and from the duties listed in para. 2 and 3, or the amount of such duties may be reduced.

(6) The external form of study requires mainly independent study, consultation with the supervisor and publication of the results of scientific and professional activities.

Article 5

Position of the supervisor in the doctoral study process

(1) Doctoral studies are carried out according to an individual study plan under the guidance

of a supervisor appointed by the dean of the faculty. Supervisors of the respective doctoral study programme are approved by the faculty's Scientific Council.

(2) The supervisor guides and supervises the doctoral student's professional and scientific training, including his or her publishing activities, draws up an individual study and scientific plan in cooperation with the doctoral student and participates in the doctoral student's continuous evaluation.

(3) The supervisor proposes to the head of the training institute the doctoral student's study stay in other domestic or foreign institutions, assists the doctoral student in arranging consultations with other experts, and approves the doctoral student's annual evaluation, which is submitted to the Department of Science and Research.

(4) The supervisor shall propose an opponent for the written part of the dissertation examination (dissertation thesis project) or the written part of the licentiate examination (licentiate thesis for the Catholic Theology study programme). The supervisor shall be a member of the doctoral student's dissertation examination (or licentiate examination) committee.

(5) The supervisor shall draw up a written opinion on the dissertation thesis, which is attached to the doctoral student's application for the dissertation thesis defence and shall propose opponents of the dissertation thesis. The supervisor shall attend the doctoral student's dissertation thesis defence.

(6) The dean of TF KU may, in agreement with the supervisor of the doctoral student, designate and appoint a consultant supervisor from among the faculty's teachers or other experts in the relevant field, who assists the supervisor in supervising the doctoral student. For the consultant supervisor, the rules laid down in the Higher Education Act shall apply.

CONTENT OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

Article 6 Study schedule

(1) The length of doctoral studies is dependent on the relevant accredited study programme. If the applicant has completed part of their doctoral studies at another institute, the applicant shall participate in the regular admission procedure and shall also attach to the application a detailed list of completed courses confirmed by the relevant institute or a decree on passing the dissertation (licentiate) examination as well as documents on the outputs of scientific research activities for which credits are assigned according to the rules of the relevant study programme. If the doctoral student lacks certain study units, he or she must complete them during the second part of his or her studies. The dean will then decide on the extent of recognition of the completed studies and the conditions of study at TF KU.

(2) Doctoral studies at TF KU are carried out by means of a credit system. The standard credit load is determined by the Study Rules and relevant regulations.

(3) Full-time and part-time doctoral students may earn credits for the following activities:

- a) completion of the study part of the study programme,
- b) completion of the scientific part of the study programme,
- c) carrying out teaching or other professional activities.

(4) The study part takes place mainly in the form of studying compulsory literature, as well as in the form of lectures, seminars and consultations within compulsory subjects, compulsory elective subjects, elective subjects and consultations on the studied literature. The study or scientific part of the study programme may also include an internship at another training institute or at another scientific and educational institute at home or abroad.

(5) The scientific part of the study programme consists mainly of the preparation and publication of professional and scientific papers and the preparation and completion of a dissertation thesis under the supervision of a supervisor in the form of consultations with the supervisor. It may also include speaking at a domestic professional or scientific event, speaking at a foreign or international professional or scientific event, professional or scientific internship at home or abroad, participation in teamwork on institutional and grant projects with the participation of the supervisor, translation of foreign professional or scientific articles in the doctoral student's field of study and their publication in a domestic periodical, active participation in the organisation of domestic and international professional or scientific seminars and conferences, as well as other scientific and professional activities.

(6) Part of the full-time form of doctoral studies may also include the performance of teaching activities. Engagement in teaching activities is carried out by the doctoral student in cooperation with the supervisor and the head of the department.

(7) The dean of the faculty may decide to change the form of doctoral studies, the field of doctoral studies, or the training institute, or to interrupt doctoral studies for a maximum period of two years in justified cases on the basis of a request from the doctoral student. In all the above-mentioned changes to the doctoral student's scientific and study plan, the proportionate part of the studies completed up to the change shall be included in the duration of the doctoral studies. The validity of the dissertation examination taken prior to such a change shall not be affected.

Article 7

Enrolment and evaluation of doctoral students during their studies

(1) After notification of admission to doctoral studies, the doctoral student shall enrol in the first year of doctoral studies by the deadline announced by the dean of TF KU. Similarly, the doctoral student shall enrol in each subsequent year of doctoral studies. Failure to enrol by the specified deadline may result in the doctoral student's exclusion from studies.

(2) In order to be enrolled in the next year, relevant requirements of the study programme must be fulfilled. Enrolment is a form of continuous study control, in which the possibility of the doctoral student's progression to the next stage of study is determined.

(3) If the doctoral student has completed part of his or her studies at another professional institute at home or abroad, the credits earned by the doctoral student shall be recognized in full provided that the doctoral student has completed such studies or scientific research in accordance with his or her study plan and that these credits are compatible with his or her study and scientific programme at the faculty. The dean of TF KU decides on the recognition of credits.

(4) The assessment of units of study by grade is carried out according to a grading scale consisting of six grading levels: A, B, C, D, E and FX.

(5) The doctoral student shall prepare annual evaluation of their activities on the basis of the invitation of the vice-dean for science and research. The doctoral student's annual evaluation shall be made in writing according to the required form. The dean of TF KU may ask full-time doctoral students to undergo an attestation – an oral interview on the results of the doctoral students' work.

DISSERTATION AND LICENTIATE EXAMINATION

Article 8

Conditions of the dissertation and licentiate examination

(1) The dissertation and licentiate examinations are a type of state examination. The licentiate examination is similar to the dissertation examination in the Catholic Theology doctoral study programme. In the system of doctoral studies, the dissertation and licentiate examination are a study course with a specified number of credits.

(2) The condition for the dissertation and licentiate examination is the fulfilment of the conditions set by the relevant study programme.

(3) The dates of the dissertation and licentiate exams are set by the Department of Science and Research.

(4) Doctoral students shall register for the dissertation and licentiate examination in advance according to the instructions published for the relevant academic year.

Article 9

The course of the dissertation and licentiate examination

(1) Dissertation and licentiate examinations consist of a written and an oral part. Dissertation and licentiate examinations are public and last, as a rule, 90 minutes.

(2) In the case of dissertation examination, the written part is the dissertation thesis project and the theses of the dissertation. The content and scope of the dissertation project and theses are determined by the supervisor upon agreement with the doctoral student. As a rule, the dissertation project is approximately 30 standard pages long and is submitted in 2 copies in bound (not necessarily bookbinding) form within a specified deadline before the dissertation examination date. The written thesis is evaluated by the doctoral student's supervisor and assessed by an opponent selected by the chair of the Departmental Committee. The opinion of

the supervisor and the opinion of the opponent shall be submitted in writing. The doctoral student has the right to read the opinions at least 1 week before the date of the defence.

(3) In the case of the licentiate examination, the written part is the licentiate thesis. The thesis is normally 80 standard pages long. The written licentiate thesis shall be submitted by the doctoral student in 2 copies in bookbinding form at least two months before the expected date of the defence. At the same time, the thesis supervisor shall propose an opponent. If the chairperson of the Departmental Committee approves the opponent, the supervisor and the opponent shall prepare their opinions on the thesis within five weeks after receipt of the thesis. The opponent shall hand over the copy of the doctoral student's licentiate thesis together with his or her opinion. The doctoral student has the right to read all the opinions at least 1 week before the examination date.

(4) The doctoral dissertation project or the licentiate thesis is debated after being opposed. During the debate, the doctoral candidate defends the theses and the thesis project or the licentiate thesis.

(6) The oral part consists of a professional examination on a range of topics set up by the Departmental Committee in cooperation with the supervisor. The exam areas shall be available to the doctoral student at least 2 weeks in advance. During the examination, the student draws from the prepared questions and topics. The number of topics on which the doctoral student comments is determined by the chair of the committee.

(7) If the doctoral student is unable to attend the dissertation examination on the appointed date, he or she must apologise in advance to the dean of TF KU, who will select an alternative date for the examination. If the doctoral student does not attend the dissertation examination without a justifiable reason, this has the same consequences as if he or she had failed the dissertation examination.

Article 10

Evaluation of the dissertation and licentiate examination

(1) Dissertation and licentiate examinations are evaluated by an examination committee. The examination committee shall be appointed by the dean of the faculty with the approval of the chairperson of the relevant Departmental Committee. The examination committee shall consist of the supervisor and one opponent. A representative of the relevant department shall also be member of the committee. In addition, the dean of the faculty shall appoint at least one other member. One of the members of the committee shall act as the chairperson, appointed by the dean of the faculty. Neither the supervisor nor the opponent may be the chair of the examination committee. The chairperson or at least one member of the committee (other than the supervisor) must be a member of the Departmental Committee of the relevant study programme.

(2) At least one member of the committee must be a holder of the scientific and pedagogical title of Professor (hold the position of professor), or be in the position of visiting professor, or be a holder of the scientific rank of Doctor of Sciences, or a researcher with the awarded qualification degree I. The opponent of the written thesis for the dissertation examination can only be an expert with at least the academic title of PhD, ArtD., the title of ThDr. (or an older

equivalent), or the scientific title of DrSc. The presence of an absolute majority of the members of the examination committee is required for a valid decision on the result of the dissertation examination. Without the presence of the supervisor, the examination may be held as long as the supervisor, the student and the chairperson of the Departmental Committee agree to it.

(3) The result of the examination shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present at a closed meeting. In the event of a tie, the chairperson shall have the decisive vote. The dissertation examination shall be a subject and shall be assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Study Rules.

(4) A report shall be drawn up on the dissertation and licentiate examination which shall also include the opinion of the opponent of the thesis. The report shall be signed by the chairperson and the members of the committee present. The chair of the committee shall inform the doctoral student of the result of the dissertation or licentiate examination.

(5) After defending the licentiate thesis, the doctoral student receives a certificate of the degree of *theologiae licentiatatus*, abbreviated "ThLic."

DISSERTATION THESIS

Article 11

The second part of doctoral studies

(1) The second part of doctoral studies is of a research nature. The doctoral student's duty in the second part of the study is primarily to write and defend a dissertation thesis. The course of the second part of the study continues to be assessed by credits in accordance with the relevant study programme.

(2) A condition for successful completion of the second scientific part of doctoral studies is that at least one publication of the doctoral student must be of at least quality B under the valid rules for the evaluation of the quality of science and research at higher education institutions in the relevant field of research. Exceptions may be granted by the dean of TF KU in justified cases.

Article 12

Requirements and content of the dissertation thesis

(1) The doctoral student submits his or her dissertation thesis for defence in Slovak language. With the approval of the dean, the student may submit his or her dissertation thesis in a language other than Slovak.

(2) The content and form of the dissertation thesis should comply with the valid provisions of the Ministry of Education and the Catholic University (Regulation on the requirements of the final, rigorous and habilitation theses).

(3) The recommended length of the dissertation thesis is approximately 120 standard pages and 150 standard pages in the Catholic Theology study programme. The dissertation thesis shall

be submitted in a bookbinding form (format) in four copies.

(4) When citing, citation ethics as well as citation technique is important. The ethics of citation determines the way in which an ethical standard is observed in relation to the ideas and results contained in other documents and in the literature used. Failure to cite the source is considered plagiarism and may be grounds for non-acceptance of the dissertation or even expulsion of the doctoral student from the doctoral programme. In the citation technique, the standard valid at TF KU shall be used. The author shall consistently use the chosen citation technique and cannot combine several techniques in the thesis.

Article 13

Preparation of dissertation thesis defence

(1) TF KU announces in advance the dates on which dissertation defences are expected to take place, together with the recommended deadlines for the submission of applications for the defence and the submission of theses. The doctoral student shall submit the application for the defence of the thesis within the recommended deadline in order to ensure that opinions can be prepared and the defence organised.

(2) Subsequently, the doctoral student shall submit the dissertation in bookbinding form by the set deadline. After receiving the thesis, the chair of the Departmental Committee shall announce whether the thesis meets the requirements in terms of its level and form and whether the chair recommends it for defence. If the opinion of the chairperson of the Departmental Committee is positive, he or she shall propose to the dean the opponents for the defence. In proposing the opponents, he or she may base the proposal on that of the supervisor. With the approval of the chair of the Departmental Committee, the student shall also submit the thesis in electronic form via the academic information system.

(3) If the Departmental Committee finds that the doctoral student's application for permission to defend the dissertation or if the dissertation thesis does not meet the prescribed requirements, the committee shall invite the doctoral student to remedy the deficiencies within a specified period of time. The doctoral student may withdraw the submitted dissertation thesis and the request for permission to defend it until the start of the closed meeting of the Departmental Committee. Similarly, the Departmental Committee may recommend that the doctoral student withdraw the thesis. If the doctoral student disagrees with this opinion, the committee shall propose to the dean that the dissertation be defended.

(4) After the doctoral student has submitted the thesis, the dean shall appoint opponents based on the proposal of the chair of the Departmental Committee. The dean shall send the thesis to the appointed opponents together with a request for an opinion as well as the result of the authenticity check. The opponents shall have 5 weeks to draw up their opinions.

(5) After receiving all the opinions from the opponents, the dean, based on the proposal of the chair of the Departmental Committee, shall appoint the members of the committee and determines the time and place of the defence.

(6) The dean shall immediately invite the participants to the defence in writing and publish

a notice of the defence, as well as information on where and how interested parties can get access to the dissertation thesis. Anyone interested in the relevant subject and in the defence of the thesis may, at the latest one week before the defence, submit their opinion or comments to the chair of the Defence Committee, or may make their remarks orally at the defence, unless the defence has been declared closed to the public. At the defence of the thesis, the doctoral student shall take a position on such opinions or remarks.

Article 14

Opponents of the dissertation thesis and their opinions

(1) The dean appoints opponents on the basis of a proposal from the Departmental Committee, which may be based on the proposal of the thesis supervisor. The opponents shall be selected from among experts in the field or specialisation, at least one of whom shall be from an institute other than TF KU.

(2) The dissertation shall be assessed by three opponents. At least one opponent must be a holder of the scientific and pedagogical title of Professor (to hold the position of professor), or be a holder of the scientific degree of Doctor of Sciences, or a researcher with the awarded qualification degree I. The other opponents may be holders of the scientific and pedagogical title of associate professor (*docent*) (to hold the position of associate professor), eminent experts in the capacity of visiting professor, visiting associate professor, or staff members with the academic title of PhD, ArtD, ThDr. or an older equivalent of the academic title, or qualified experts from practice.

(3) The opponent cannot be co-author of the doctoral student's publication, a member of the doctoral student's family or a subordinate at a workplace or similar work relationship.

(4) The opponent shall submit his or her written opinion to the dean and return the thesis no later than 5 weeks after its receipt. If the opponent is unable to provide an opinion, he or she shall notify the dean within 15 days after being appointed. If the opponent fails to hand over their opinion within the specified deadline and fails to do so 14 days after receiving a reminder, the dean shall appoint a new opponent.

(5) The opponent's opinion shall contain an objective and critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the submitted thesis, it shall be brief and shall not be repetitive. In the opinion, the opponent shall express his or her opinion in particular on the topicality of the chosen topic, on the chosen methods, on the achieved results, indicating what new information the dissertation brings, on the contribution to further development of science, technology or art and whether the dissertation has fulfilled the pursued objective.

(6) The opponent shall clearly state in their opinion whether or not they propose to award the academic degree of PhD to the student on the basis of the submitted thesis.

(7) If the opponent's opinion does not meet the specified conditions, the dean shall send it to the opponent for completion or reworking. At the same time, the dean shall set a deadline for resubmission, which should not exceed 30 days.

(8) The doctoral student has the right to familiarize themselves with the opponents' opinions at least one week before the dissertation defence.

Article 15

Defence of the dissertation thesis

(1) The dissertation defence committee consists of a chairperson and at least four other members. The chairperson or at least one member shall be appointed from among the members of the Departmental Committee. The doctoral student's supervisor shall also participate in the defence, without the right to vote. The dean shall ensure that the defence of the thesis takes place no later than five months after the application for its acceptance has been submitted.

(2) The chair of the Defence Committee shall send the opinions of the opponents to the members of the committee, including the supervisor, to the doctoral student and to the department at which the study programme was carried out.

(3) The dissertation defence shall be public and take place in the form of a scientific debate between the doctoral student, opponents, members of the Defence Committee and other participants of the defence on the knowledge gained and the contribution of the thesis, or as an artistic debate on the created work of art or performed artistic performance discussed in the thesis. During the defence, the justifiability and plausibility of the conclusions and proposals contained in the thesis shall also be examined.

(4) The defence may only take place in the presence of two thirds of the members of the Defence Committee entitled to vote, including at least two opponents. If one of the opponents cannot attend the defence for serious reasons and his or her opinion is positive, the defence may take place without him or her, provided that all members of the Defence Committee present agree to this. In such a case, the opinion of the absent opponent shall be read out in full at the defence.

(5) If the doctoral student is unable to attend the defence on the appointed date for serious reasons, he or she must apologise in advance to the dean and to the chair of the Defence Committee. In such a case, the dean, in agreement with the chair of the committee, shall set an alternative date for the defence and notify the participants.

(6) The defence shall be led by the chairperson of the Defence Committee; in exceptional cases, the chairperson may delegate the leading of the defence to another member of the committee who is also a member of the Departmental Committee. Neither the opponent nor the supervisor may lead the defence, even if they are members of the Departmental Committee.

(7) The procedure for defending a dissertation thesis:

- a) The chairperson starts the defence; he or she gives a brief curriculum vitae of the doctoral student, announce the topic of the thesis, essential information from the supervisor's opinion and an overview of the doctoral candidate's scientific or artistic works and the received feedback.

- b) The doctoral student then briefly introduces the essential content of the thesis, its results and contribution (usually in the form of a visual presentation).
 - c) The opponents present the substantive content of their opinions.
 - d) The PhD student takes a position on the opinions of the opponents, in particular, he or she comments on all reservations and comments and answer their questions.
 - e) The chair informs the attendees of other opinions and statements and opens a discussion in which all attendees may participate. During the discussion, the correctness, validity, scientific or artistic originality and relevance of the knowledge contained in the dissertation are assessed, as well as the correctness and conciseness of the opinions of the opponents.
 - f) During the discussion, the PhD student answers all questions and takes a position on all suggestions and objections of the participants.
- (8) A record of the defence is drawn up and signed by the chair of the Defence Committee.
- (9) After the defence, a closed meeting of the Defence Committee is held in which the members of the Defence Committee, including the opponents and the supervisor, will participate. The closed meeting will evaluate the course and outcome of the defence and the possibility of applying the results of the dissertation in practice. The committee shall decide by secret ballot whether to award an academic degree to the doctoral student. The vote shall be taken by voting cards. The supervisor shall have no voting rights.
- (10) A motion to award an academic degree shall require the participation of at least two thirds of all members of the committee eligible to vote and the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present. A record of the result of the vote shall be drawn up and signed by all voting members of the committee.
- (11) If the result of the vote is positive, it shall be announced by the chair of the Defence Committee at a public meeting of the Defence Committee. If the result of the vote is negative, the Defence Committee shall agree in closed session on the reasons for the proposal not to award the degree. This justification shall form part of the record of the result of the vote. The result of the vote with the reasons shall be announced by the chair of the Defence Committee at a public meeting of the Defence Committee.
- (12) Within 30 days from the date of the defence, the Defence Committee shall submit the proposal for the awarding or non-awarding of the academic degree to the doctoral student, together with the record of the defence and voting and the doctoral student's file to the dean, who shall have the diploma drawn up.
- (13) A doctoral student who, on the basis of the result of his or her dissertation defence or because of his or her unexcused absence from the defence has been proposed by the Defence Committee not to be awarded the academic degree may reapply for permission to defend the thesis in the same study programme at the earliest 6 months after the date on which the

dissertation defence took place or was due to take place. The dissertation defence may be repeated only once.

(14) Upon completion of the defence, the doctoral student shall publish an edited version of the thesis in bookbinding form according to the supervisor's instructions and submit five printed copies to the Science and Research Department within six months. All comments, suggestions, modifications and additions made by the opponents, the supervisor and the members of the committee must be incorporated by the doctoral student.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Article 16

Changing the form of doctoral studies

(1) A change in the form of doctoral studies, study programme, supervisor or training institute may be made during doctoral studies in justified cases, especially if this creates more favourable conditions for the fulfilment of the doctoral student's study programme. The relevant Departmental Committee shall give its opinion on such changes.

(2) The doctoral student may ask the dean for a change of the form of doctoral studies from full-time to part-time in the event that the student does not finish their studies by defending a thesis within the specified time or for other reasons. The doctoral studies may not exceed a period of five years, even if the change of form is made.

(3) Changes in the form of doctoral studies are decided by the dean on the basis of a doctoral student's request and after the supervisor and the Departmental Committee have given their opinion. The provisions of the Study Rules of the faculty apply to changes in the doctoral study programme. When changing the study programme, the dean may decide, on the basis of a recommendation of the Departmental Committee, to recognise the doctoral dissertation examination of the doctoral student and the courses of the study part that the student has taken prior to this change.

(4) The proportionate part of the duration of the completed study programme prior to the change of the form of doctoral studies shall be included in the duration of doctoral studies.

Article 17

Interruption, termination and expulsion from doctoral studies

(1) The provisions of the Study Rules of the faculty shall apply to the interruption and termination of doctoral studies.

(2) In the event of non-fulfilment of the doctoral student's obligations, the doctoral student may be expelled in accordance with the Study Rules.

Article 18

Fees

(1) The provisions of the Act, the Statutes and the regulations of the university and the faculty shall apply to fees linked to doctoral studies.

Article 19

Final provisions

(1) This Regulation repeals the previous Regulation on Doctoral Studies which entered into force on 21 February 2012.

This Regulation shall enter into force on: 1 September 2017

Approved by the Academic Senate of TF KU in Ružomberok on: 27 June 2017

The amendment of Article 4 approved by the AS TF KU in Ružomberok on 21 June 2018 comes into force on 1 September 2018.

prof. ThDr. Cyril Hišem, PhD.
Dean of TF KU in Ružomberok

prof. ThDr. PaedDr. Jozef Biel'ak, PhD.
Chairman of the Academic Senate