

Meeting of the Scientific Board of the Central European Institute of Technology, Masaryk University

Date, venue	2 nd December 2021, online meeting
Participants	J. Nantl (chair), V. Bryja, T. Kašparovský, M. Mráz, P. Plevka, K. Říha, R. Štefl, Š. Vaňáčová, Š. Pospíšilová, M. Králíčková, J. Doležel, L. Kunz, O. Fojt, J. Friml, S. Pastoreková, P. Tomančák, M. Kiess, M. O'Connell, R. Vácha, J. Fajkus, J. Cacek
Guests	E. Handlířová, A. Valterová, Z. Novotná, M. Pokorná, M. Marcolla, A. Dvořáková, K. Ornerová
Excused	E. Zažímalová, M. Repko
Minutes prepared by	E. Handlířová
Approved by	J. Nantl
Comments by	-

Agenda

- 1) Results of per rollam vote on the Strategic Plan of CEITEC MU 2021-2028
- 2) Summary overview of 2021
- 3) Leadership policy (draft for the discussion) – HR Excellence in Research Award
- 4) Organisational structure change
- 5) General debate

Minutes

Introduction

The Scientific Board reached the quorum: 21 members were present out of 23 members.

J. Nantl welcomed new members of the scientific board Jiří Fajkus and Robert Vácha; and congratulated Milena Králíčková for being elected rector of the Charles University.

1) Results of per rollam vote on the Strategic Plan of CEITEC MU 2021-2028

J. Nantl informed the board members about the per rollam vote results regarding the Strategic Plan of CEITEC MU 2021-2028. In total, 17 votes were received, voting for the plan proposal. Based on that, rector of the Masaryk University approved the strategic plan on 24. 8. 2021.

The Strategic Plan of CEITEC MU 2021-2028 is available publicly here:

https://is.muni.cz/do/ceitec/HR_Award/CEITEC_MU_Strategic_Plan_2021-2028_approved_final_web.pdf

Conclusion(s):

The scientific Board takes the CEITEC MU Strategic Plan 2021-2028 proposal into account without reservations.

2) Summary overview of 2021

See PPT (Annex 1)

J. Nantl summarised 2021 in terms of scientific productivity (nature index, publication data, grants, etc.), see presentation for detailed tables and data. CEITEC MU contributed very significantly to receiving grade A to the

whole university within the national evaluation system M17+. We have higher than national average success rate in all national grant schemes.

J. Nantl: We have the aim to become a European centre for correlative microscopy. The teaming proposal „CORMIC“ was already submitted (one of the flagships of the new strategic plan) with expected results in February 2022. The project is focused on correlative microscopy approaches, the development of new microscopy technology at the interface of life and material sciences and the education of experts in this field.

J. Nantl: CEITEC PhD School opened a new molecular medicine programme in cooperation with the Medical Faculty. First students were admitted in 2021. By this step, we bring CEITEC PhD students under one umbrella with the same conditions and standards.

J. Nantl: All the large research infrastructures in which we are involved were graded either Excellent or High within the interim evaluation of RIs by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS). This is crucial to get financial support for the period 2023-2029. The governmental decision about the level of financing is expected to be done next year. Czech Plant Phenotyping Network was established as a new infrastructure; therefore, all core facilities of CEITEC MU are included in the large research infrastructure list.

Conclusion(s):

The scientific board takes the summary overview of 2021 into account.

3) Leadership policy (draft for the discussion) – HR Excellence in Research Award

See Annex 2

J. Nantl presented a draft of leadership policy. According to the HR Strategy of CEITEC MU, the institute aims to ensure high-quality supervision. At the same time, the supervisors should be able to get quality training in leadership and managerial skills. Gap analysis done in 2018 as a part of the HR Excellence in Research Award application procedure, we identified a gap in the missing evaluation system tailored to the position of a group leader as a leader and manager.

J. Nantl: We aim to have two side conversations with group leaders about how they perform as leaders and managers and to provide them with tools on how to progress further in leading team.

S. Pastoreková: Leadership is a very important aspect that, so far, did not get enough attention. Navigation through the recommended literature about leadership and self-development for leaders might be added to the policy.

Conclusion(s):

The scientific board takes the Leadership policy into account.

4) Organisational structure change

See Annex 3

J. Nantl: Jaroslav Koča passed away suddenly in July. He was a man with vision, courage and a sense of humour. There was Jaroslav Koča Memorial Colloquium on Computational and Structural Biology organised on 30th November. Jaroslav was the President of the Czech Science Foundation (GAČR), the Emeritus Scientific Director of the CEITEC Consortium, and Director of the National Centre for Biomolecular Research at the Faculty of Science of Masaryk University. In line with the career system, the research group will be dissolved (effective as of 31st December 2021). Dissolution of the research group is closely tied with the establishment of new Biological Data Management and Analysis Core Facility (CF BioData). The facility will be responsible for the implementation of the ELIXIR-CZ project.

J. Nantl: Dmitriy Chudakov Research Group does not meet the systemization jobs criteria regarding the size of the group (see Annex 2 for detailed reasoning and information). We are working on a different form of collaboration with Dmitriy Chudakov, together with Šárka Pospíšilová.

Š. Pospíšilová: Dmitriy Chudakov is an excellent researcher, and we are working on the status of visiting professor, with several postdocs, being affiliated to Šárka Pospíšilová Research Group.

Decision(s):

Scientific Board has no reservation to organisational changes of dissolution of Dmitriy Chudakov Research Group and Jaroslav Koča Research Group; and establishment of Biological Data Management and Analysis Core Facility.

5) General debate

J. Nantl shared information regarding a recruitment procedure for a new group leader at CEITEC MU. We received a large number of candidates of high quality (55 applications in total, 40 men / 15 women candidates), including one ERC grantee. We expect negotiations to be held in December. The scientific board will be informed about the results after the procedure is closed.

Annexes

https://is.muni.cz/do/ceitec/vedecka_rada/2021/