

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

Date, venue	9 th March 2023, hybrid meeting (E25/211 + MS Teams)
Participants	J. Nantl (chair), V. Bryja, J. Cacek, J. Fajkus, O. Fojt, T. Kašparovský, M. Kiess, L. Kunz, M. Mráz, M. O'Connell, S. Pastoreková, P. Plevka, Š. Pospíšilová, M. Repko, K. Říha, P. Tomančák, R. Vácha, Š. Vaňáčová, D. Vetchý
Guests	E. Handlířová, N. Kostlánová, M. Marcolla, Z. Novotná, M. Pokorná, E. Jarour, K. Ornerová
Excused	M. Králíčková, E. Zažímalová, J. Doležel, J. Friml, R. Štefl
Minutes prepared by	E. Handlířová
Approved by	J. Nantl
Comments by	-

Agenda

- 1) ISAB evaluation results, recommendations and following procedures
- 2) Amendment to the CEITEC MU Strategic plan 2021-2028 reflecting ISAB evaluation results
- 3) General debate

Minutes

Introduction

The Scientific Board reached the quorum: 19 members were present (physically/online) out of 24.

J. Nantl welcomed members of the scientific board, both present in Brno and those who joined the meeting online.

1) ISAB evaluation results, recommendations and following procedures

See annex 1

J. Nantl presented an anonymous distribution of final ISAB evaluation results (grades) and presented the following steps – particularly in the case of group leaders graded 1 or 2. We received four appeals in total (two from group leaders graded 1 or 2, two from group leaders graded higher). The deputy director for science and scientific secretary organised meetings with individual heads of research centres to discuss future steps regarding research groups with grades 1 and 2. These working groups formulated concrete recommendations that were presented to the director. Director's board was informed and consulted in January 2023, and individual meetings with group leaders graded 1 or 2 and with group leaders who sent their appeals were organised in February and March.

K. Říha: In the case of grade 3 – it is still a decent grade, in which the ISAB revealed a space for improvement. Therefore, group leaders with grade 3 were asked to prepare an action plan that reflects the ISAB evaluation report.

J. Nantl: We should not keep senior groups at the performance level, which would not be sufficient to promote junior group leaders. CEITEC should not host groups lacking ambition and strategy for future improvement.

J. Nantl also presented institutional recommendations formulated by the ISAB and discussed thoroughly at the final meeting of the ISAB and CEITEC MU management members.

Scientific board members discussed the publication strategy, particularly the question of (not) having the obligation of the first-author publication to finish PhD studies.

In the following part of the meeting, J. Nantl presented news on selected priority topics of the management (see the presentation, slides no. 2-8).

Conclusion(s):

The scientific board takes the update on priority topics of CEITEC MU management, including update on the ISAB evaluation and following procedure, into account.

2) Amendment to the CEITEC MU Strategic plan 2021-2028 reflecting ISAB evaluation results

See annex 2

Following the discussion regarding the results of the ISAB evaluation, J. Nantl presented a proposal for an amendment to the CEITEC MU Strategic plan 2021-2028. CEITEC MU management is in agreement with the ISAB that given the current standards and aspirations of CEITEC MU as a research institute, a consistent policy should be introduced and implemented to ensure that for senior research groups (as defined by the CEITEC MU career system) there are enough safeguards for continuing and enduring development towards some progress. I.e., CEITEC MU should implement principles and tools to make sure that the institute does not keep and maintain research groups that are underperforming. That is important both for the sake of institutional scientific standards and strategy but also for securing long-term financial stability and prospects of further development of CEITEC MU. See annex 2 for detailed commentary.

Š. Vaňáčová asked about the distribution of the grades across research programmes. K. Říha is not sure the distribution could be comparable due to the number of evaluated groups in individual research programmes. K. Říha also added that all reports and grades went through a final discussion and adjustments at the final ISAB meeting. All evaluators discussed all group leaders. The discussion was intense and moderated by the experienced chair, Dirk Inzé, who has a long-term experience with CEITEC.

M. Kiess encouraged CEITEC MU management in the ambition to host research groups with high aspirations that are above the national average.

Conclusion(s):

The scientific board supports the amendment to the CEITEC MU Strategic plan 2021-2028 as presented in annex 2.

Annexes

https://is.muni.cz/do/ceitec/vedecka_rada/2023/