



Brno, 29th May 2017

Dear members of the Scientific Board:

I would like to inform you on several issues that have developed since the last meeting of the CEITEC MU Scientific Board on 2nd March 2017:

Budget 2017

The budget plan 2017 has been finalized, incorporating two adjustments. On the revenue side of the budget there is an increase of 18,2 mil. CZK in institutional funds based on corrections at the national scientific evaluation system. It is worth to note that CEITEC MU gets almost half of the increase of MU institutional resources income (performance-based distribution being used).

We also have reflected the discussion at the Scientific Board meeting and changed the budget reporting format accordingly, meaning levies to the centralized funds of MU (41,9 mil. CZK in 2017, compared to 52,7 mil. CZK in 2016) are included in the budget plan (both revenue and expenditure side). That also corresponds with Article 2, Section 3, Internal Budgetary Rules (Director's Measure 6/2016).

As reported according to these adjustments, the overall budget of CEITEC MU for 2017 is planned to be 669,7 mil. CZK (statutory depreciations not included). The increase of total revenues will be added to the reserve (currently being 4,5 % of the total budget).

H2020 Teaming

It is my pleasure to inform you that CEITEC MU together with VIB Gent succeeded in the first phase of the H2020 Teaming call with the project PASSAGE (Plant Synthetic Biology for Bio-engineering and Sustainable Agriculture). The project will be chaired by Karel Říha, Deputy Director for Science, as project leader and Dirk Inzé as scientific leader on side of VIB as our strategic partner. PASSAGE was ranked 9th on the list of selected projects, and it also is the best ranked project from among those submitted from the Czech Republic.

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You will be updated on developments of this project at the next meeting of the Board (see below), and Jiří Friml (IST Austria) has kindly agreed to serve as the Chair of the Advisory Board for PASSAGE.

Junior Research Group Leaders Selection

After consultation with the CEITEC International Scientific Advisory Board, CEITEC MU has undertaken a selection procedure of new junior research group leaders. The purpose of this selection procedure was enable a very limited number of senior researchers who have previously been hired by CEITEC MU as quasi-independent principal investigators without research group of their own, to form a research group. The call was therefore announced in December 2016 under conditions requesting candidates to demonstrate ability to bring in their own extramural funding upon establishment of the research group.

The search committee registered ten applicants within the deadline (31st January 2017), and five of them were found eligible under the conditions of the call and, thus, invited for interviews.

The search committee was chaired by Karel Říha and consisted of Richard Štefl, Jiří Fajkus, Šárka Pospíšilová, Josef Humlíček, Ivan Rektor, Mary O'Connell, Jaroslav Koča, Petr Dvořák, Pavel Tomančák. The work of the search committee was supported by two independent external reviewers (Petr Svoboda, Petr Šebo) selected upon nominations by members of the search committee. The interviews of the candidates took place on 5th April 2017 and were preceded by public presentations of the invited candidates, which took place on 3rd April 2017.

On the recommendation of the search committee, to which I have agreed, I have extended invitations to discuss appointment as a research group leader to Michal Šmída and Robert Vácha.

Based on the Article 11, Section 3c) of the Rules of Organization of the CEITEC MU, the Scientific Board is hereby asked for statement on new groups establishment.

You will find a formal proposal of statement of the Scientific Board, and CVs of selected candidates in the attachment to this letter, and you are kindly requested to undertake a per rollam vote on the question of new research groups establishment.

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Next meeting of the Scientific Board

Next meeting of the Scientific Board is hereby proposed to be held on Thursday 26th October, 2017. Please save this date, and kindly confirm your attendance!

The minutes from the board's meeting (2nd March 2017) were approved with no adjustments or comments. All documents related to the Scientific Board operation are available for you online at https://is.muni.cz/do/1471/vedecka_rada/ (in case of any difficulties with the access, please contact the secretary of the board at eliska.handlirova@ceitec.muni.cz). At this online document server, you can find all background materials, minutes, contacts and organizational information.

Sincerely,



Jiří Nantl
Director

Annexes:

1. Formal proposal of statement of the Scientific Board
2. CV Robert Vácha
3. CV Michal Šmída

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