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Faculty of Arts  
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Dear Colleagues:

I am writing in response to your request of last month, March 2021, that I provide an evaluation of Dr. Renáta Panocová as you consider her for inauguration into the rank of full professor. For the record, I note that I do not know Dr. Panocová personally, though I am familiar with her work, and I note further that I was the author of a chapter of a book that she recently co-edited (*The Interaction of Borrowing and Word Formation*, published last year). My involvement with that edited volume in no way affects my ability to be objective and in fact, most of the correspondence that I had with the editors concerning my chapter was with Dr. Panocová's co-editor, Pius ten Hacken, and not with her directly. In this evaluation, I consider Dr. Panocová's record in research and in teaching. To anticipate my conclusion, I find Dr. Panocová to have an excellent record, with strong credentials in both of these key areas of faculty responsibility.

Dr. Panocová works primarily in the area of Linguistics known as morphology, the study of words with regard to their internal structure, their creation, and their relation to other words and meaningful pieces of words. She has published particularly on matters of word-formation, the extensive area of study within morphology that focuses on the processes by which new words are created. In this way, she contributes to our understanding of what is referred to as "derivational morphology", since — admittedly oversimplifying somewhat in my characterization of the field — it deals with the ways in which new or related words are derived from, or related to, the basic "building blocks" of vocabulary, i.e. existing words and existing meaning-bearing material, e.g. prefixes and suffixes, combined in novel ways. In her research, Dr. Panocová considers word-formation from the perspective both of language-particular processes for the creation of new words are created in particular languages — especially, in her case, English and Russian — and of the general theoretical principles governing such creations.

Dr. Panocová has a rich record of sustained research, demonstrating through her two research monographs and her 41 articles in various outlets (journals of different sorts, conference proceedings volumes, anthologies, and the like) that she has a coherent and well-formed research program. Her work is aimed at the elucidation of word-formation involving specialized technical vocabulary that uses neo-classical (Greek and Latin) roots, and in her articles and books on the topic she presents a compelling account of the processes that lead to the creation of particular



examples. Her focus in this work is on medical vocabulary, a choice of domain that is both interesting and important, given the ubiquity of medical vocabulary in the lives of all of us. But her work is not merely practical or even descriptive in its orientation, as Dr. Panocová examines this technical lexical field through the lens of a structured theoretical framework — that of onomasiology — and she explores the consequences of the assumptions of this framework, while at the same time testing those assumptions. I personally was particularly interested in the distinction she draws between words that are newly minted, so to speak, in modern times with classical pieces, and words that are outright borrowings from the classical languages, as this distinction speaks to aspects of the history of particular words, a topic of considerable relevance to my own work in historical linguistics. Among other things, this personal example shows that there is much in her ample research output to interest a wide range of linguists, from morphologists and historical linguists to lexicographers and theoreticians of lexical development in languages, not to mention specialists in the particular languages from which she draws her data.

And, indeed, it is clear that scholars take her work seriously, as it has been cited often — over 125 times according to the information that she provides. The creation and codification of knowledge that her work represents has therefore been of considerable benefit to the scholarly community. I should point out that it is not at all unusual in the field of Linguistics for important works to appear in conference proceedings volumes or in journals that are not as highly ranked as the most visible ones; while not as highly prized by mechanical evaluation metrics, such papers can be enormously influential. Dr. Panocová's research profile fits that characterization. Two of her most widely cited papers appear in the *Bulletin of the Transylvania University of Brasov*, a journal that is international, to be sure, but is also more regional in its scope and undoubtedly its readership too. Nonetheless, these articles — these products of Dr. Panocová's research program — have had a real impact on the scholarship of others, an effect that is likely to be magnified over time rather than diminished.

Research can be measured in many ways, and such evaluation should not be limited just to the overt products — papers and books in particular — of research output. There is also the matter of the scope of the research projects in which a candidate has been involved and here too, Dr. Panocová has an impressive record, with participation in eight nationally funded projects and five funded through European sources. The topics of these projects are interesting, and importantly, in my view, involve matters of pure science, such as comparative perspectives on word-formation in European languages or on evaluative morphology, as well as matters of pedagogy and program design. Dr. Panocová's involvement not only advances the visibility of the English language program at your university but it also gives greater visibility to Dr. Panocová herself as a researcher.

With regard to her teaching, I of course have not had the opportunity to witness her in the classroom so I can only make my judgment on the basis of the written record as it pertains to her capabilities as an instructor. Nonetheless, here too Dr. Panocová offers an impressive record and it is clear that she has made significant contributions to pedagogy in linguistics and language-related studies in general. I consider it a real positive to see the breadth of her coverage of topics



for her classes, for instance, morphology, lexicology, and translation, and the large number of programs within the university that she has contributed to. I note too that she has developed new courses and that she has produced two textbooks as well as other pedagogical materials. I take the course creation and text production to be additional very positive indications of her high degree of engagement with her teaching and with her students.

Moreover, under the rubric of teaching, I also include the advising of students with regard to theses at various levels (especially B.A. and M.A., but also Ph.D.); although such advising overlaps with research, especially at the doctoral level, it is primarily a matter of training students to think critically, to investigate topics of importance to the field, and to develop their written presentational skills. It is thus intimately tied to teaching and is a labor-intensive and extremely important aspect of a professor's pedagogical obligations to the university, to society, and to individual students. In this regard, I am particularly impressed with the number of advisees she has had at the B.A. and M.A. levels. To me, this amount of involvement with her students represents an important way in which she has advanced the intellectual development of individual students. Finally, Dr. Panocová appears to have been an excellent ambassador, so to speak, for your university, as she has been involved in a number of international programs, such as various Erasmus+ exchange programs.

To sum up, as noted at the outset, based on the accounting and sampling I have seen of her work, I can say unequivocally that Renáta Panocová has an excellent overall record, with strong credentials both as a researcher and as an instructor. In my estimation, she is most deserving of advancing in professorial rank.

Sincerely yours,

BRIAN D. JOSEPH

Distinguished University Professor of Linguistics, and  
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