



At Prague on: January 17, 2016

Statement from the director of the institute on the final report of the Commission No. VII

Distinguished Commission,

Please accept my sincere thanks for your Final Report from the evaluation of the Institute of Experimental Botany. I came to deeply respect and admire the Commission's review process. As former Scientific Secretary, former Deputy Director, former Head of IEB Board and current Director of the Institute, I have had a chance to observe all international evaluations of the IEB in the post-communist era. The 2015 Commission for Evaluation ran by far the most professional, competent and prepared review process. It was a joy for the employees of the IEB to collaborate with the 2015 Commission.

I cannot but agree with the text of the Final Report: your findings confirmed many of my own thoughts about the IEB and your suggestions for improvement were very welcome. We will certainly take them into account in strategizing how to improve the performance of teams at the Institute.

In several instances, I would like to suggest minor revisions to the text below – all of them are small cases and the need to edit the text is in no way urgent. Needless to say, the edits are completely up to the Commission and I won't require further proofs of the report.

Again, thank you for your work with the IEB.

No. 7: Laboratory of Plant Biotechnologies

ad) Declaration on the involvement of students in research

Text of FR: *They have had 8 PhDs over period, but currently the numbers are not low, with no 2014 PhD students.*

This seems to be a mistake: Z. Kutil and J. Tauchen were PhD. students during 2014.

ad) Declaration on societal relevance

Societal functions (advisor to the Minister) are mentioned in the evaluation of Team 6, so it seems that the same should also be declared here: Tomáš Vaněk was advisor to the Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic on R&D and member of Scientific Committee of the Ministry of Environment.

ad) Declaration on the position in the international and national context

Tomáš Vaněk contributes to research on an international stage, he is the Czech representative and member of the Board of the European Plant Science Organization (EPSO) and member of the Board of directors of the International Phytotechnology Society.

No. 9: Laboratory of Signal Transduction, Laboratory of Pathological Plant Physiology and Laboratory of Biologically Active Compounds

The text contains one factual error: not Jan Martinec but Jan Kolář (from the same team) was awarded by the Medal of Vojtěch Náprstek.

Sincerely,

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Martin Vágner
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