

VRAA 31-LT-2023
Αρ. Φακ.: 07.14.336.097

December 14, 2023

Professor Mary Ioannidou-Koutselini
President of the Board of the
Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and
Accreditation in Higher Education
Nicosia

Dear Prof Koutselini,

**Subject: Postponement of the decision on the accreditation of the
PhD in Public Administration**

We hereby indicate all our actions and/or policies relevant with the requests submitted by the President of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA) in the letter sent to us on October 9, 2023, Ref. No. 07.14.336.097, in relation with the pending decision for the accreditation of PhD in Public Administration. We note that the items requested were all part of the evaluation procedure and had been positively evaluated by the external accreditation committee.

Request No1

“To further widen both faculty and students’ exposure to current research in the area of public administration, please develop and provide a list of scheduled seminars and/or colloquia and/or workshops around particular topics, facilitated by visiting and/or invited faculty and staff.”

Response

1. In 2022 the School of Law concluded an MoU for educational and research co-operation with the Independent Authority for Public Revenue (IAPR), Greece. The objective of the MoU is to develop the necessary conditions for the development of a framework for educational and research co-operation and exchange of knowledge in cutting edge areas and fields of joint interest. The co-operation focuses on the Master and Doctoral Programmes in Public Administration. Dr Giorgos Kentas, who is responsible on behalf of the School for the implementation of the agreement, is currently preparing a schedule of activities, including joint seminars, in cooperation with IAPR. The School of

Law 2022 Annual Review, where this agreement was announced, may be found attached (Attachment 1).

2. The School of Law, the Department of Politics and Governance and the Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs have co-organized in the recent past a research seminars series, which included, among others, presentations of topics stemming from ongoing research work on Public Administration, conducted by faculty members, alumni, as well as PhD candidates. The co-organizers are planning to resume this research seminars series in Fall 2024.
3. The Annual PhD Colloquium of the School of Law offers PhD students the opportunity to present parts of their research findings and discuss them with other PhD students and faculty members. The next PhD Colloquium will be scheduled soon. The program of a past Colloquium is indicatively attached (Attachment 2).
4. On April 5-6, 2024, the School of Law intends to organize a hybrid conference on Independent Authorities, in memoriam Prof. Prodromos Dachtoglou. The keynote speaker will be Dr Panos Lazaratos, Professor of Administrative Law, National and Kapodestrian University of Athens

Request No 2

“To assist the doctoral programme grow, both in respect to number of faculty and student enrolment, please develop and provide a plan for targeted recruitment efforts.”

Response

The size of faculty depends on several factors, including the Management’s financial policy, as well as the students’ admissions potential. When it comes to the recruitment of new faculty, the needs of the PhD Program in Public Administration are regularly included in the budget and growth planning of the Department of Politics and Governance, therefore, requests for new faculty take into consideration the overall needs of the Department.

When it comes to student enrolment in PhD programs, the Department of Politics and Governance and the School of Law abide by the principles of quality assurance, which dictate that only PhD applications with unquestionable potential can be accepted. Therefore, the number of students enrolled per semester depends on the quality of proposals that have been submitted by applicants. Another prerequisite that we implement in our student enrolment process is that for a proposal to be considered that must fall well in the scope of the Program’s (and the Department’s) research interests. For that reason, we issue a call for proposals every semester, wherein we provide details on our supervisors’ availability and their preferred research topics. These principles safeguard a workable PhD students-per-faculty ratio, not only

in terms of numbers of PhDs under supervision, but also in terms of quality and consistency with the Program and the Department's research priorities.

Request No 3

"To boost students' research experience and to broaden their theoretical preparation in their field, please develop and provide a list of ways students are encouraged and supported to share their own research in academic contexts, both locally and abroad (i.e participation in conferences, allocation of travel money, etc.)."

Response

The Program strongly encourages the participation of PhD students in international conferences and the DPPC committee and individual supervisors are contributing to this direction.

Students' participation in conferences is approved and funded on an ad hoc basis, following the recommendation of their main supervisor. Students are expected to apply by submitting the following evidence:

1. Call for Papers
2. A copy of the manuscript submitted for presentation
3. Letter from the conference organising committee confirming acceptance of manuscript
4. Fees and other cost information
5. After attending the event, students are expected to submit the Certificate of Participation and a summary report evaluating the event and stating the experience and benefits gained.

In this framework, the Vice Rector for Faculty and Research has been regularly approving conference allowances up to €500 per student on an ad hoc basis.

In its effort to institutionalize this process, the Senate has drafted a comprehensive policy with maximum rates per School and per student on an annual basis, which has been submitted to the Council for approval.

Request No 4

Regarding the composition of committees supervising doctoral thesis, please indicate how you follow the Agency's instructions, as outlined in the link below:

<https://www.dipae.ac.cy/index.php/el/nea-ekdiloseis/anakoinoseis-el/661-4-07-2022-didaktorikes-diatrives>

Response

The University of Nicosia has implemented this decision of the Council of CYQAA by incorporating it in Chapter 12.9 (p. 7-8) of its PhD Code of Practice, which is part of its internal regulations. The PhD Code of Practice may be found attached (Attachment 3).

Prof. Andreas Theophanous
Program Coordinator