

*Internal Rules of the Czech Technical University in Prague*

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*Pursuant to Section 36, Para 2 and 5, Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments and Supplements to some other Acts (The Higher Education Act), the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports registered the Code of Ethics of the Czech Technical University in Prague under ref. no. MSMT-28478/2014 on 6 August 2014.*

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*Director of the Higher Education Department*

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# CZECH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE



## Code of Ethics of CTU in Prague

Prague, 6 August 2014

## **PREAMBLE**

### **I. University – a leading centre of education**

- (1) The Czech Technical University in Prague is an integral part of leading centres of education, independent knowledge and creative activity, which play a key role in the scientific, cultural, social and economic development of society. Ethical principles guiding the relationships within the university, as well as the relationships between members of the academic community and non-academic staff on the one hand and society as a whole on the other stem from the historical mission of universities as top institutions within the educational system.
- (2) The provisions of the Code of Ethics make reference to ethical principles the content of which is a model of normative behaviour for society as a whole, and which are perceived as a consequence of the general and generally accepted moral and formal rules of behaviour of groups of individuals and groups in a developed society, taking into consideration the nature of university education and research activities.
- (3) If academic staff and students abide by generally accepted moral and formal principles, it is reflected in their overall positive assessment and respect they enjoy within the academic community. On the other hand, any violation of these principles by individuals causes damage to the reputation of the entire academic community and the university.
- (4) The academic community, which pursuant to Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments and Supplements to some other Acts (The Higher Education Act), as amended, consists of academic staff and students, has an extraordinary mission in society. It is therefore important that all members of a university's academic community should honour and respect ethical rules.

### **II. CTU Code of Ethics**

- (1) The CTU Code of Ethics summarizes the basic ethical requirements for academic staff and students of the Czech Technical University in Prague (hereinafter as "CTU") in connection with their professional and academic activities, in particular educational, research, creative, evaluation and expert activities.
- (2) All educational, research, creative, evaluation and expert activities at CTU should be based on respect for truth, freedom of research, on verification and honest disclosure of research results, open transfer of knowledge and on critical debate on all aspects of academic activity.
- (3) Morality is not legally enforceable. Any violation of ethics should primarily be reflected by individual consciousness – conscience. However, serious and conscious violations of this Code of Ethics may be considered as a breach of work obligations or a disciplinary offense.
- (4) The individual provisions also adequately apply to the activities of other CTU staff who do not constitute the academic community under the Higher Education Act, but direct co-operation of these workers is required in areas the ethical aspects of which are the subject of this document.

## **Article 1**

### **Ethics and academic freedoms**

- (1) The Higher Education Act deals with academic freedoms in the sense of creating a quality social environment that is necessary for universities to be able to fulfil their role, i.e. to act as a social model in the creation of values in science, technology, culture and art. The Higher Education Act grants members of the academic community academic rights that the CTU applies while fulfilling its mission, its visions and goals formulated in its strategic documents.
- (2) Normative behaviour of academic staff and students is based on characteristics that are generally recognized and respected in developed societies around the world. The main manifestations of these virtues include trustworthy, beneficial and responsible behaviour towards the public, the studied and developed discipline and the university as such.
- (3) The academic freedom of academic staff and students lies in the exercise of free will and decision making within educational programmes and disciplines, freedom in self-education, freedom in scientific research; these freedoms are exercised in accordance with ethical principles adopted by the academic community.
- (4) Academic staff and students will not tolerate unethical behaviour both at CTU workplaces and outside the university.

## **Article 2**

### **Relation to CTU**

- (1) Academic staff and students perceive the results of their work in science, research and creative activities created at CTU as results associated with the university and they acknowledge that it is the material, technical and knowledge support and history of CTU that enables them to achieve these results.
- (2) During their study stays outside CTU the Czech Republic and abroad, academic staff and students behave in such a manner as to honour the CTU's reputation.

## **Article 3**

### **Relationships within the academic community in pedagogical activities**

- (1) Relationships between the members of the academic community are formed based on collegiality. Academic staff and students are aware of the principles of behaviour based on tolerance, respect for truth, respect for human beings, respect for freedom of thought and expression.
- (2) Members of the academic community behave in a proper manner towards other members, respecting the rights of each member of the academic community.
- (3) Academic staff take care of their development and by their personal example they help students develop their personality.
- (4) Academic staff seek to present the latest knowledge during instruction in the best possible way and in a comprehensible form.
- (5) Academic staff fairly assess students' performance based on transparent and pre-defined terms. They do not accept any attempts at influencing the results.
- (6) Academic staff do not perceive their status as superior, do not require or accept any services

from students, protect the students' right to privacy.

- (7) Students are aware of the responsibility for the consequences of their actions and their approach to study. They make full use of university studies for their personal and professional growth and respect and honour the educators' efforts aimed at helping them acquire high quality education.
- (8) Academic staff and students do not tolerate disrespect, arrogant or degrading treatment of people. They behave with respect and consideration to one another and are tolerant to different political and religious beliefs.

#### **Article 4**

##### **Ethics of scientific, research and creative activity**

- (1) Academic staff and students consider scientific, research and development work to be a fundamental activity leading to an increased level of knowledge to the benefit of society, with an emphasis on increasing the scientific prestige of CTU.
- (2) Academic staff and students take full responsibility for the objectivity and credibility of their research results, strive for their completeness, verifiability and objective interpretation.
- (3) In their publications, academic staff and students list truthfully and in a formally correct way their information sources that they draw on in their work.
- (4) Academic staff and students respect the principles of copyright ethics, i.e. they do not appropriate ideas and concepts of others, they respect co-authorship. In case a work is a result of a creative activity of multiple authors, they always properly cite their co-authors, whose ideas or texts they used in their own work.
- (5) Academic staff and students abide by the CTU methodological instruction "On Compliance with Ethical Principles in Developing of University Theses".
- (6) Academic staff acting in the capacity of evaluators, reviewers or experts perform their work in person, independently and using all their expert competences.
- (7) Whenever possible, scientific and research workers strive to make the outcomes of their work available and accessible in order to contribute to further development of the respective disciplines.
- (8) Scientific and research workers set an example for students by being engaged and honest in their scientific and research work.
- (9) In their scientific and research work, academic staff and students support team approach and collaboration with Czech and foreign workplaces.
- (10) Academic staff and students are aware of the economic demands of technological research and creative artistic work and therefore plan, manage and implement their projects with maximum economic responsibility and efficiency.

#### **Article 5**

##### **Ethics of expert and economic activity**

- (1) Academic staff and students perform all economic activities without unlawfully using the CTU symbols and mark or abusing the university's facilities and know-how. Moreover, by their other

economic activities they strengthen the expertise and interconnection between research and practice to the benefit of CTU, while ensuring a reasonable profit for CTU.

- (2) Academic staff and students do not accept tasks and activities that would result in a conflict of interests with either CTU or partners of the university.
- (3) In the framework of mutual projects, academic staff and students strive for integrity of the university also in economic relations and encourage mutual collaboration between faculties, constituent parts of CTU and partners of the university.

## **Article 6**

### **Dealing with offenses against principles set out in the Code of Ethics of CTU in Prague**

- (1) Violations of this Code of Ethics may be assessed by the Ethics Committee in accordance with the Ethics Committee's Rules of Procedure issued by the CTU Rector following a discussion by the CTU Academic Senate.
- (2) The Ethics Committee is set up by the CTU Rector according to Article 21a of the CTU Statute.
- (3) The Ethics Committee is an advisory body of the Rector. Resolutions adopted by the Ethics Committee are submitted to the Rector by the Chair of the Ethics Committee.
- (4) Members of the Ethics Committee are appointed by the Rector following a discussion by the CTU Academic Senate. When selecting persons to nominate, the Rector takes into consideration their personal moral authority, integrity and extended experience in working in academia.
- (5) Suggestions to assess violations of the Code of Ethics are submitted by academic staff and students to the Ethics Committee in accordance with the Ethics Committee's Rules of Procedure.
- (6) Sessions of the Ethics Committee are held behind closed doors and the participants in the sessions of the Ethics Committee are bound by confidentiality.

## **Article 8**

### **Final provisions**

- (1) In accordance with Article 41 of the CTU Statute, this Code of Ethics is an internal rule of CTU.
- (2) This Code of Ethics was approved by the CTU Academic Senate on 25 June 2014.
- (3) This Code of Ethics comes into force pursuant to Section 36, Para 4 of the Higher Education Act on the day it is registered by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Prof. Ing. Petr Konvalinka, CSc., m. p.

Rector