

PREPORTR

THE NAKED UNIVERSITY

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Besa Kalaja, Qëndrim Bunjaku

THE PATH OF LETTERS

Prishtina University, to a large extent, conducts its studies without literature. The basis of the program of this university continues to be scripts and sketches of lectures. The current literature is very outdated. In general, we have a going back as regards the standard of studying in this university, a return to "The Path of Letters", when we only got the alphabet.

Besnik Boletini



“TEMPLES OF KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENCE ARE THE RAY OF LIGHT FOR THE NATION AND HUMANITY”

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BESA KALAJA, QËNDRIM BUNJAKU

The politics has stripped the University of Prishtina from any academic quality and lost any integrity of the academic staff. It has transformed UP into a base from where it aims to mobilize its constituency by using it for electoral purposes. For years on end, the University has functioned around a vicious circle between politics and higher education.

While UP has been exploited as a base for launching many current politicians into politics, it has also used the University to decorate itself with the academic cloak, in order to obtain

credibility in front of the public eye.

Today, to be an academic staff in UP, you must necessarily be a vassal of politics and be stripped of any academic and professional attributes.

This research by Preportr has found that there is in this high education institution, an interconnected triangle of the impact of politics upon the recruitment of academic staff, and the selection of leading bodies. In addition, the research shows that there is a strong link between the high public positions, state governing bodies, and the

academic staff of UP and private colleges.

A large number of academic staff, be that of Prishtina University, or private colleges, hold high political positions or act as directors of departments in government institutions.

According to the findings of Preportr, it results that a large part of the academic staff of UP, but also private colleges are either direct part of politics, or faithfully serve it.

Prishtina University in this case is the biggest victim since almost all professors who are also politicians, consider their

work in university as secondary. The university also has considerable lacking of staff with the highest degree, PHD. From the information Preportr has obtained from websites of three faculties, the Law, Economic and Philosophy, it results that half of the staff is with a master's degree.

Preportr's findings have shown that the recruitment of academic staff in UP, but also the selection of governing bodies cannot be carried out without a political affiliation or support, the Democratic Party of Kosovo being the leader in this.

Despite the fact that Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) has led the Ministry of Education since after the war, which had little or no impact at all in the University, it appears that UP has always been commanded by the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK), through its 'academic' mercenaries.

The powerful and direct influence of LDK in UP, according to Dukagjin Popovci, ended in October 1st 1997.

The entire leading structure of UP, ever since after the war, has either followed directly by politics, or indirectly was linked



with politics by serving all parties who had power.

But, the use of politics to benefit positions in university has not been a one-way road. Many professors and assistants have exploited the university to obtain important political posts, be that as members of parliament, political advisors, ministers, deputy ministers, municipal assembly presidents, etc.

Even student organizations, which never dealt with student problems, sided with politics when it needed them. This support was not offered only when ex-soldiers of KLA were being accused, or sentenced for war crimes. Leaders of student organizations who dealt with politics more than with student problems, today have very important positions in institutions of Kosovo.

University of politics

Prishtina University, since its establishment, has been the right arm of the most important political events Kosovo went through. Established in 1971, UP has been the leader of most important processes Kosovo went through beginning from demonstrations of 1981 and the events of 1997.

The role of the university has changed throughout the years. After the war, the efforts of few people from the academic world who were committed to depoliticizing this institution did not yield any fruits. The more years go by, UP is being exploited by politics for narrow interests of political groups or other groups of interest.

The latest elections of the leading structures of this university only proved this even more. Apart from the rector who came directly from politics and who actively contributed to it during the elections campaign, also other members of the Leading Council, and some faculty deans have derived from political affiliations.

“Politics is present in the University of Prishtina and this situation continues from mid 90’s, usually expressed through the domination of different political groups inside the university”, says Dukagjin Popovci, education expert.

Pupovci says that the influence of politics is observed during the election of managing structures of the university, as well as in cases of appointment of academic staff.

“Thus, Prishtina University is not immune from the influence of politics, and when political interests are tangled up with academic issues then there can be serious negative impacts in quality”, he adds.

THE OVERALL NUMBER OF POLITICIANS AND HIGH PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO WORK IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA AND PRIVATE COLLEGES:

102

OFFICIALS WHO HAVE POLITICAL POSTS AND WHO HOLD HIGH PUBLIC OFFICES WORK IN UP AND PRIVATE COLLEGES.

In its research, Preportr has found that many of ministers, members of parliament, political advisors, department directors of different government institutions are professors in Prishtina University but also in private colleges.

Academics of the executive:

Members of the Parliament of Kosovo who work as lecturers in UP but also in private colleges.

**In Presidency of Kosovo
Municipal Mayors
Ladies of the Academy**

Leading structures derived from politics

Immediately after the war, Zejnel Kelmendi came in as head of University. Apart from occasionally serving political parties, she did not make any important impact in reforming and increasing the quality of the University.

This work was done by Georg Woeber, special advisor for high education in the Ministry of Education.

The stumbling in high education, he justified with conditions through which this institution had gone, the only high education institution at that time. In Woeber’s time, Prishtina University acquired its statute.

During the time when Zejnel Kelmendi was rector (today he is the advisor of the Minister of Justice, Hajredin Kuçi), Kuçi and Arsim Bajrami were awarded with land parcels in what is called the University neighborhood.

Municipality of Prishtina, department of Geodesy and Cadaster did not hesitate to place these parcels under the name of these two professors who were deputy leaders of the Democratic Party of Kosovo. Although the parcels were registered illegally, as it was said then, in their name, Kuçi and

Bajrami were committing another violation – they had begun building their houses without a permit. At the time when the houses were built, the Director of Urbanism, Lulzim Nixha had reacted.

Following Kelmendi, for a short period of time Arsim Bajrami became rector of the University, who derived directly from politics. Bajrami was dismissed from the post by the Minister of Education, Rexhep Osmani, coming from LDK, with the reasoning that Bajrami was appointed in this post in an unlawful manner. The University was led for a few months by the Leading Council.

In 2006, Enver Hasani was elected rector of the University. During his mandate, Hasani tried to restore order by identifying professors who had plagiarized their PhD degrees. For this action, Hasani did not receive any support from anyone. Even the Leading Council was divided on the matter, some being pro and some against it. Consequently, even during Hasani’s time, not much was done in depoliticizing UP and carrying out reforms.

The most significant interferences of politics were committed during the time when Muje Rugova served as rector of UP. During his mandate, Rugova committed numerous violations. The last two years of his mandate, he was in the position unlawfully, since he had reached the age of 65 and should have been retired.

Mujë Rugova served favors to powerful people of PDK. During his time, Bekim Haxhiu – Kamishi, deputy from PDK and former member of SHIK became an assistant professor. In Haxhiu’s case, all recruitment criteria for the selection of new academic staff were violated.

Just for days short of completing his three-year mandate as rector of Prishtina University, Rugova issued two decisions, according to which 16 candidates obtained the right to register for PhD in the Law Faculty.

According to files obtained by Koha Ditore, the absolute majority of these candidates did not even have the necessary GPA required by call for applications. The university was not freed from political influence even in the latest elections.

Apart from the rector, Ibrahim Gashi, who comes directly from politics and helped PDK in the last elections, other deans and a part of the Leading Council were also appointed in managing positions from politics.

Bujar Dugolli was elected as

THE NUMBER OF OFFICIALS WHO HAVE POLITICAL POSTS AND WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND PRIVATE COLLEGES

50 OFFICIALS WHO HOLD PUBLIC POSTS ARE INVOLVED IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

22 POLITICAL OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

19 POLITICAL OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED IN PRIVATE COLLEGES

08 POLITICAL OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED IN PUBLIC AND UNIVERSITIES AND PRIVATE COLLEGES

01 POLITICAL OFFICIAL WORKS IN TWO PRIVATE COLLEGES

THE NUMBER OF HIGH PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO WORK IN THE GOVERNMENT AND WHO ARE INVOLVED IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES:

52 HIGH PUBLIC OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES (EXCLUDING THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH)

19 OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED IN THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY

08 OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED IN THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY AND PRIVATE COLLEGES

25 OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED IN PRIVATE COLLEGES

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY: 33 PROFESSORS HOLD THE DEGREE PHD, 23 HOLD THE DEGREE OF ASSISTANT AND ONLY ONE OF THEM HAS THE DEGREE MR.SC.

FACULTY OF LAW: 47 PROFESSORS HOLD DEGREE PHD, 32 HOLD THE DEGREE MR.SC

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS: 39 PROFESSORS HOLD THE DEGREE OF PHD, WHILE THERE ARE NO PUBLIC DATA ON THE DEGREE OF MR.SC.

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Office of the Primeminister

- Blerim Latifi- advisor, professor of Philosophy in UP, University College Humanistika, Ferizaj;
- Bekim Çollaku- chief of staff in OPM, assistant in UP;
- Dhurata Hoxha, political advisor, lecturer in AUK ;
- Mrika Kotorr, political advisor, assistant in UP, lecturer in AUK

Ministry of Justice

- except minister Hajredin Kuçi who is professor in UP,
- Eqrem Zenelaj; advisor and lecturer in Fama college.
- Driton Ljaqi is external lecturer in Maryland University, University College in Bondsteel Camp.
- Jehona Lushaku and Donikë Qerimi, who a few months earlier left the job in the ministry are not assistants in UP.
- Arsim Gerxhaliu, director and professor in UP and Fama and;
- Bedri Bahtiri, general secretary, professor in UP.

Ministry of Trade

- has two lecturers.
- Avdi Smajllaj, political advisor, lecturer in Fama College;
- Bernard Nikaj, political advisor, honorary lecturer in UP.
- Chief Executive Granit Berisha is lecturer in AUK.

Ministry of Public Administration:

- Engin Melekoglu, political advisor, European University of Policlinics, lecturer; Bashim Bellaqa, director, Business University College;
- Driart Elshani director, professor in AUK.

Ministry of Agriculture:

- is closely linked to Iliria college,
- Blerand Stavileci, minister and lecturer in Iliria college;
- Behlul Behluli and Halit Hoxhaj, advisor and lecturer in Iliria college.
- Bashkim Thaçi, advisor and assistant in UP; Ekrem Gjokaj, a.h. of director, works in UP.;
- Ilir Morina, chief executive, works in Peja University and ESLG.

in Ministry for Diaspora:

- Elizabeta Musliu, political advisor, lecturer in Faculty of Arts.
- Mentor Borovci, director, lecturer in Prizren University.

Ministry of Finance

- Besim Beqaj, minister, associate professor in UP; Ilir Islami, director, lecturer in Juridica;
- Lulzim Rafuna, director, lecturer in AAB;
- Naim Huruglica, former customs director, lecturer in Pjetër Budi;
- Qerkin Berisha, director, lecturer in UP;
- Rifat Hyseni, director, lecturer in Juridica;
- Sakip Imeri, director, lecturer in UBT;

Ministry of Security Force;

- Blerim Limani, political advisor, prodekan in european college "Juridica".

Ministry of Infrastructure:

- Ramiz Fazliu, political advisor, assistant in College Iliria.

Ministry of Culture:

- Arbër Reçi; director of Iliria Institute, general secretary in Iliria college, political advisor to the minister
- Hajdin Abazi; deputy minister, lecturer in Victory college;
- Malsor Gjonbalaj, political advisor, assistant in UP;
- Xhevat Bajrami, director, professor in UP.

Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare:

- Behxhet Gaxhiqi, political advisor, professor in European University for Judicial Studies and Public Administration.

Ministry of Internal Affairs:

- Alush Beqiri, director, college Biznesi,
- Jetullah Aliu, director , Fama;
- Riza Shillova, director, ISPE;
- Rexhep Rudari, director, college Gjilan.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- Enver Hoxhaj, minister, professor in UP;
- Agron Maloku, director, Fama;
- Albinot Bimbashi, director, University Dardania;
- Nagip Skenderi, first secretary, UP, college Victory.

Ministry for Integration:

- Besfort Rrecaj political advisor, assistant in UP.
- Dritëro Arifi political advisor, lecturer in college Iliria

Ministry of Environment:

- Ferat Shala deputy minister, lecturer in UP, lecturer in Faculty of Geosciences;
- Armend Podvorica u.d. of director, Prizren University;
- Murat Meha, chief executive, UP;
- Naser Bajraktari, director, Prizren University;
- Rifat Morina, director, UP;
- Sylë Tahirsylaj, director, UP;
- Gafurr Podvorica, director, College Humanistika.

Ministry of Education:

- Drita Kadriu, political advisor, member of leading Council in Peja University;
- Ibrahim Gashi rector and professor in UP and Fama ;
- Nuri Bexheti, political advisor, prorector in UP, professor in UP and UT,
- Ramë Buja minister, professor in AAB;
- Usmen Baldazi, deputy minister, professor in College Fama;
- Bekim Samadraxha, director, UP, College "Biznesi";
- Hysen Matoshi director, UP, Faculty of Islamic Studies;
- Murteza Osdautaj, director, UPZ, UBT;
- Nezir Çoçaj director, chairman of Leading Council in UP;
- Sali Bashota director, UP;
- Teuta Danuza, director, UP.

Dean of Faculty of Philosophy. In the last parliamentary election, Dugolli was part of PDK's list, but did not win the necessary votes. He had joined this party after leaving The Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK). For a few years, Dugolli served as minister of Trade and Industry. During his post, a large number of public enterprises were privatized, including Feronikel. Part of AAK's higher structures was also Ethem Çeku, who was elected as dean of Faculty of Education. Çeku was minister of Environment and Spatial Planning. Çeku had left the party a few years earlier, saying he wanted to commit himself to the academic life.

Even some of present pro-rectors have been linked to politics. Nuri Bexheti is a political advisor of Education Minister, Ramë Buja, Sejdi Rexhepi for several years has been municipal

PRO-RECTORS OF PDK

Some of the current pro-rectors who are linked to politics.

- Nuri Bexheti, political advisor of minister of Education, Ramë Buja,
- Sejdi Rexhepi has for a few years served as municipal advisor of PDK in the Assembly of Prishtina

advisor of PDK in the Assembly of Prishtina.

Even Leading Councils of the University were not spared from politicization. After Arsim Bajrami was dismissed from the position of the rector, the Uni-

versity was led by the Leading Council for a few months. The Council consisted also from people coming from political parties or ones who were linked to them. During the time when Arsim Bajrami led the University for several months, and after he was dismissed, there were tendencies by LDK to stretch its influence in the University through the Ministry of Education, led by LDK Minister Agim Veliu. The consistence of the Leading Council shows this tendency. Some of the members of the Council were part of LDK, such as Isa Mustafa and Haki Demolli. The deceased Rahmil Nuhui used to be part of PDK.

Mustafa and Demolli were part of the Leading Council even during the time when recto of University was Enver Hasani. Part of LC were also Basri Çapriqi, Demë Hoti, Abdul-lah Zejnullahu, Hivzi Sojeva,

Dukagjin Pupovci and Hivzi Muharremi.

When Isa Mustafa ran for mayor of Prishtina, he was replaced in the Council by Muharrem Bajrami, member of LDK.

In the previous mandate, almost all members of this Council either came directly from politics, or were relatives of politicians mainly from PDK. The Leading Council has many competences deriving from the statute of UP and the Law on higher education, including the mission, development, finances, suspending or dismissing the staff, etc.

Even the current Council is not short of its misgivings, as regards its political affiliations. The majority of the current Council are closely linked to PDK.

"As regards the election of the academic and leading staff, there are huge anomalies. I

believe that the precondition is that one day, hopefully, the leading staff, etc. in the university will not be dictated and appointed by politics. It is simply an insult and humiliation for the entire academic and intellectual world when you allow politics interference in the life of the university and academia", says Arben Hajrullahu, lecturer in the department of Political Sciences in Faculty of Philosophy.

Hajrullahu, was quite outspoken as regards the irregularities in the University. He is of the conviction that the university is being exploited as a trampoline in order to advance into politics, but this is not a one-way path. "I have the feeling that the posts in university serve as reserves in case politics fails and they can return to university to wear the new cloak. In fact, all interference from politics are damaging to the university, damaging to

Deputies of Parliament of Kosovo who work as lecturers in UP but also in private colleges. Deputies who work also as lecturers are:

- Afërdita Berisha-Shaqiri, member of parliament, professor in UP, Faculty of Economics, College Biznesi;
- Arsim Bajrami member of parliament, Faculty of Law, full-time professor;
- Bekim Haxhiu, member of parliament, University of Prishtina, Faculty of Medicine, teaching assistant;
- Behar Selimi member of parliament, authorized lecturer in UBT, Dardani;
- Burim Ramadani member of parliament, lecturer in ISPE;
- Duda Balje member of parliament, professor in Fama;
- Eqrem Kryeziu member of parliament, lecturer in Prizren University;
- Haki Demolli member of parliament, associate professor in UP, associate honorary professor in Dardania;
- Hykmete Bajrami, member of parliament, UP, assistant professor;
- Idriz Vehapi, professor in UP;
- Ismet Hajrullahu, Media Advisor to the Chairman, professor in Iliria College;

- Justina Pula, member of parliament, ordinary professor, Globus University, professor;
- Lutfi Zharku member of parliament, Riinvest, lecturer, UP;
- Muhamet Mustafa member of parliament, professor in Riinvest;
- Nysret Krasniqi advisor, professor in UP;
- Nazane Breca member of parliament, honorary assistant in UP;
- Ramë Vataj, member of parliament, associate professor in UP;
- Sabri Hamiti, member of parliament, professor in UP;
- Safete Hadërgjonaj member of parliament, lecturer in College Biznesi;
- Vjosa Osmani member of parliament, assistant in UP, lecturer in AUK
- Xhevahire Izmaku, member of parliament, European Institute Juridica, lecturer, College AAB.

In the Presidency of Kosovo, some of the advisors of President Atifete Jahjaga, are also lecturers in private colleges.

- Arbër Vllahu, is lecturer in Academy Evolucion,
- Garentina Kraja, lecturer in AUK.

Only two of mayors are also lecturers:

- Shaip Surdulli mayor of Kamenica, Faculty of mechanical

- engineering, professor, AAB University Professor-associate of mathematics;
- Isa Mustafa mayor of Prishtina, regular professor in UP, Faculty of Economics

Ladies of the Academy:

In UP and private colleges, wives of some of the politicians teach. Wives of minister Hoxhaj and minister Agani teach in the University of Prishtina, and wife of Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi teaches in College Fama. Some of the professors who have held positions in institutions have resigned. This came about after a decision of rector Ibrahim Gashi that professors who hold two regular working contracts in public institutions should choose one of them.

1. Prof. as. Nagip Skenderi 2. Prof.asoc. Mazllum Baraliu 3. Prof.ass. Nuran Muhaxheri 4. Prof.dr. Sylë Tahirsylaj 5. Prof.dr. Sali Bashota 6. Prof.asoc.Naim Hasani 7. Prof. asoc. Qerim Selimi 8. Ass. Bedri Bahtiri 9. Ass. Qerkin Berisha 10. Ass. Blerta Brovina 11. Ass. Flamur Mrasori 12. Ass. Xhafer Tahiri 13. Ass. Besfort Rrecaj 14. Ass. Elmanze Nura 15. Ass. Veton Zeqiraj 16. Ass. Nurten Deva.

the public, for which unfortunately, there is little sense in this society”, says he.

“It is a vicious circle how they trample on each other by turns, starting from the fact that many cases are suspected of false diplomas, some appointed from politics, the admission of students without any criteria or influenced by daily politics, programs designed for needs of daily politics, etc”, adds Hajrullahu. Another professor in the University of Prishtina, Ramadan Zejnullahu, in an opinion piece published in the daily Koha Ditore described in details the situation in this high education institution. He spoke of the influence of politics and the shortcomings in the University.

“As regards the Prishtina University, the extent of wrongdoing has long now been upsetting. The management of UP, under strict political control, is degenerating. Groups of individuals finely accommodated in the academic life, for their own interests in decision-making, abuse groups of students, but they can no longer hide their behavior of non-academic, hooligan, criminal and immoral style. They have become so notorious that they have transformed this institution into a private property, and have irreversibly ruined the good image of the wonderful students and committed staff in this university had created for years”, says Zejnullahu.

Students of politics!

Politics in Prishtina University has not remained only in the

level of management. To a large extent, it has also touched students. Some of the students who have shown to be more enthusiastic in serving politics have greatly benefited after having completed the studies.

“The majority of these organizations place themselves in defense of their political mentors in order to fulfill their initial agreements. These organizations have often interfered in issues which do not concern the students, issues which belong to the judiciary etc, but they never spoke out against corruption in the university, or quality of studies and so on”, says Dukagjin Popovci.

He thinks that the politicization of student organizations has its roots back in 1997, when some organized students could no longer take the situation and the lack of implementation of the agreement on high education, reached between Kosovo authorities and Serbia. In October of that year, they organized demonstrations, without the blessing of the President Ibrahim Rugova.

This is where, according to Pupovci, the influence of LDK over the university ends, an influence which it did not win back even after the war, although it led with the Ministry of Education.

The organizers of this protest, after the war, sided with parties which are known as the war wing. Bujar Dugolli with AAK, and Muhamet Mavraj and Driton Lajçi remained close with PDK.

After the war The Independent Union of Students was

led by Afrim Hoti, today professor of Prishtina University. After him came Gani Morina, who was also a soldier of the Kosovo Liberation Army. He was part of the protests organized regarding the arrest of Fatmir Limaj, by the International Court on War Crimes in Hague. Morina’s Union was also critical towards the talks in 2003 between Kosovo and Serbia. Since the Independent Union of Students dealt more with political issues rather than the problems of students, other organizations emerged from students which aimed at dealing with the issues of students.

It was Sejdi Hoxha who benefited the most by serving politics and not students. Hoxha, now 32 years old, led the Union during 2004-2005. Only a few years later, he is now exercising very important functions in various enterprises as member of the Board of Kosovo Railways, chief executive in Post of Kosovo, assistant in Faculty of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj, part of UP. Hoxha is the nephew of the deputy from PDK, Azem Syla.

During the time when Hoxha was head of the Union, a fierce battle had ensued between him and Elbaskan Hoti for this post. The post was acquired by Elbaskan Hoti, and Sejdi Hoxha established another organization. Elbaskan Hoti, same as Hoxha, served and continues to serve politics well. Hoti is director of the Center for Social Work in Klina, while his father, Avdi Hoti ran for the assembly as part of PDK for the Assembly of Klina in the last local elections.

LEADING COUNCIL (2009-2012)

The majority of the members of Leading Council (2009-2012) were directly or indirectly linked to politics.

- Agim Zogaj, is considered fan of PDK, while in the beginning of this year he was seriously seen as a candidate for mayor of Prizren.,
- Milazim Krasniqi, father of Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi.
- Nuri Bexheti, political advisor of minister of Education, Ramë Buja,
- Ilire Vinca, wife of PDK former member of parliament in the first mandate, Lirak Çelaj and still its member.
- Marian Dema, was head of Demo-Christian Albanian Party of Kosovo who during the election campaign of 2010 elections had sealed a coalition agreement with PDK.

LEADING COUNCIL (2012-2015)

- Nezir Çoçaj, president, close with PDK.
- Elife Podvorica, deputy president, candidate of PDK for member of parliament.
- Prof. asc. Ajvaz Berisha, close with PDK;
- Prof. asc. Safet Merovci, was part of the previous management and loyal to rector, Mujë Rugova.
- Arben Fetoshi, former director of Radio Kosovo, close with PDK
- Prof. asc. Blerim Kamberi, Prof.dr.Beqir Sadikaj, Prof. dr. Behxhet Mustafa, Muharrem Nitaj

“STUDENTS OF POLITICS”

- Afrim Hoti, first post-war president of the Independent Union of Students (UPSUP), now professor in UP.
- Gani Morina, former leader of UPSUP, now physician in QKU.
- Sejdi Hoxha, former leader of UPSUP, nephew of Azem Syla, former president of the Board of Kosovo Railways, now chief executive of Post of Kosovo and assistant in Faculty of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj.
- Elbaskan Hoti- former leader of UPSUP, supporter of PDK, director of the Center for Social Work in Klina.

THE PATH OF LETTERS

Prishtina University, to a large extent, conducts its studies without literature. The basis of the program of this university continues to be scripts and sketches of lectures. The current literature is very outdated. In general, we have a going back as regards the standard of studying in this university, a return to "The Path of Letters", when we only got the alphabet

BESNIK BOLETINI



The fall of criteria in Prishtina University is widespread and has touched almost every sector of it. Due to being used for political ends, this university has been transformed into an institution which serves science the least. From within, there are voices which alarm about the situation, but the fact that neither the market nor the society has begun to make demands for quality has left this institution in the mercy of narrow interests and mediocrity. Professors linked with politics simply grab everything they can reach, often keeping jobs simultaneously in UP, private universities, as well as governmental institutions.

There isn't a verified literature in UP, while students often willingly limit themselves in reading exam tests, which are often distributed as literature. In many UP departments, the mandatory subjects are taught with scripts, summaries of lectures as well as alternative literature, and even "leaked" tests which are distributed as instant literature for exams. Students are not sufficiently demanding, while many professors hold also public and governmental posts, and are additionally employed in various private colleges and do not have enough time to give lectures in UP. Instead of being penalized for absences in lectures, these professors take wages even for hours they did not hold. The payment of wages for professors who do not give regular lectures is also confirmed by reports of the Auditory, which are not being taken into account.

In Prishtina University, which has 16 Faculties consisting of 80 departments, only 6 scientific journals are published, which do not fulfill the international criteria on scientific journals. These journals did not manage to obtain international codes of scientific journals, but have only obtained codes from the National Library and the University of Kosovo.

Studying with scripts

Many departments of Faculties of Prishtina University lack basic literature for mandatory subjects. Instead of basic literature, students learn from scripts or summaries of lectures, which do not have academic quality, but have a general content. Dukagjin Pupovci, director in the Kosovo Center for Education says that UP cannot have all the main books in albanian language,

despite the fact that it obtains a large number of books translated from Albania. He says that regarding some subjects, professors have to devise scripts, but according to him, these scripts "are of a very low academic quality."

"It is difficult to always have texts in Albanian language, so they have to learn from books in a foreign language or from scripts.....Professors devise their scripts for commercial purposes. So, even quality is not in its required level and cannot give sufficient knowledge from those scripts and slides. The worst is that the students are required to study only what has been written in the script", says Pupovci.

Preportr has conducted a review of literature in the Faculty of Law, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Philosophy and Department of Journalism. Only some of the students of these faculties have agreed to speak about this issue, while the majority of the students did not agree to speak because of fear of eventual revenge by their professors.

Taking into account that most of literature in the Department of Philosophy is in a foreign language, mainly in English, the assessment report of the Accreditation Agency of Kosovo (June 2012) recommended to this department to improve the level of knowledge on foreign languages for students who participate in their study programs. "Without solving this problem, the Department of Philosophy will not be able to deliver a high quality knowledge in its area in a long-term prospect", mentions the report of AAK.

Taking into account the shortcomings in the area of research of Faculty of Economics, the Accreditation Agency of Kosovo, in its assessment report (June 2012) recommended that studies should not be conducted only with standard literature, but also to establish a research approach, especially in seminary pieces. Additionally, AAK has recommended to the Faculty of Economics to establish a research-scientific center through which this faculty would develop more in the scientific aspect.

As regards quality of studies in the department of journalism, the Accreditation Agency of Kosovo, in its report of 2011, has assessed that the Bachelor program resembles a tool box (knowledge and practice), something that could be offered in a col-

lege. "The Master's Program appears that it does not have the subjects and factors which are necessary for a scientific framework: theoretical systems, methodology, referential disciplines, such as media companies, media policies, media psychology, media education etc. The programme plan does not show neither how far, how much and in what direction the students learn to work with scientific methods", says the assessment report. Furthermore, in departments of Faculty of Education there is a serious scarcity of basic books for mandatory subjects. According to students of this faculty, fourteen subjects are taught with scripts. There are even professors who make it mandatory to buy their books. The Accreditation Agency of Kosovo has issued a recommendation that some of the programs of the Faculty of Education should increase their research work and at the same time look towards possibilities of participating in research projects which are being conducted in EU and in other teaching universities.

The lack of seriousness in UP is also shown by the fact that graduation papers of students are being sold in the car market in Fushe Kosova, and that with prizes of only 1 euro. The person selling these papers declared that he has thousands of them. On the other hand, these papers are not analyzed by anyone, but are presented formally in front of a commission of three professors.

Ramadan Zejnullahu, professor in the Department of Mathematics in FSHMN says that the fall of studying quality is happening because of the politicization of UP and the recruitment of new staff in UP without any criteria, but who have only been in the service of politics and different interest groups. He says that among the new academic staff mainly those who do not fulfill the legal criteria are chosen, and in many cases there are forfeited reviews and procedures by themselves, but also by reviewing commissions, and all of this happens out rightly and with the knowledge of UP leadership. In an opinion piece published in "Koha Ditore", he says that the election of academic staff is done according to political preferences, material benefits or family links. According to him, the package voting for the election of academic staff in the Senate of UP has become the most

beside primary literature, students learn for different scripts or compilations of lectures, which do not have academic quality, but have rather general content

sophisticated mechanism for covering up crime in this area.

“It is sufficient to extract a statistics of persons employed in UP these years in whatever post and conclude that the main criteria has been nepotism, political belonging and material interests. Consequently, academic units today are filled with staff who had a hard time getting a passing grade without dragging for a long time or often without avoiding procedures, whereas UP has degraded so much that it now has no chance of fulfilling its mission”, says Zejnullahu.

He says that the relatively large number of doctoral thesis and master thesis completed in a relatively short period of time is in full inconsistency with scientific capacities and laboratory equipment in UP. “The avoidance of academic procedures in this field has been accompanied by deviating actions which resulted with a non-qualitative and detrimental product for the development of high education in Kosovo. The bodies of the University have never made it clear that the transmission of scientific information can be done only by those who have the scientific information and who to some degree, are part of this information, but never those who obtained these degrees in illegal ways”, emphasizes Zejnullahu.

Falsification of grades in an organized fashion

Apart from the poor quality of studies, lack of basic literature, another phenomenon present is the falsification of grades by students. Arben Hajrullahu says that in the Faculty of Philosophy this phenomenon is widespread, and further speaks about the cases when even his signature or grade has been falsified. He raises grounded suspicion that the falsification of grades is done in collaboration between some individuals and academic, administrative and leading staff. Hajrullahu says that he has warned students and academic, administrative and leading staff that he would denounce them in the prosecution all those who would falsify his signature.

“In academic year 2012/13 I have had two problematic cases with which I have dealt. One case concerns threats against me, which I denounced in the police. In the other case one student in the final graduation phase is caught with more than ten false grades, and one of them being of a subject

I teach. I have grounded suspicion that she did not commit this manipulation on her own. She must have done this with the assistance of some colleagues from the academic, administrative and leading staff. I have denounced this case in the prosecution, and what they further do I do not know. Regarding the case, the prosecution has never contacted me up till now, while the Faculty for such cases issues ridiculous penalties in the style of suspending students for a number of semesters or delaying graduation ,etc”, says Hajrullahu.

He adds that in 2007/2008 another case happened involving one assistant together with the administration, they made it possible for one so-called public figure to pass the exam through manipulation. “I remember, when I denounced the case in the Dean’s office, I was told that I should keep quiet because this person comes from the media and he could speak against us! Since in this case my signature was not falsified, I did not deal anymore with this, for example denouncing it in the prosecution “.

Hajrullahu says that there are various tendencies of students to pass exams without merit. He also mentions cases of threats through phone messages from students because they did not fulfill the criteria to pass the exams, but he never faltered and after the student who declared himself as “war veteran” apologized later and went through the exam as all other students.

Only six scientific journals, all without international codes

Prishtina University, which has 16 faculties, consisting of 80 departments, publishes only six scientific journals. But even these scientific journals do not have adequate scientific values, because only one of them (Njohja) has been distributed in the internet in the international market, whereas the others are used only within Kosovo. This shows that these journals are “poor” and still do not fulfill the criteria of international scientific journals. Taking this into account, these journals did not manage to obtain codes of international scientific journals, but have only obtained codes only from the National and University Library of Kosovo.

Even the rector Ibrahim Gashi himself has got into trouble with scientific works. He is suspected of having ad-

vanced into the professor level without any publication in scientific journals “with impact factor” and without fulfilling the number of five scientific works, as provided in the Statute of Prishtina University.

“Koha Ditore” on November 9 of this year reported that the majority of scientific works which have been recognized to merit this title, do not cite Gashi as main author, are irrelevant to the subject matter, but have also been published in an Indian scientific journal which is suspected of being fictional.

The Faculty of Philosophy began in 2012 to publish the journal “Njohja”. This is a journal of the Institute for Social and Human Studies, in the Faculty of Philosophy. In May of 2013, the second edition of the journal came out. Hasnrije Ilazi, member of the editors’ board of this journal says that this journal has reached audiences in the international scale and that already there is inquiring by foreign authors to publish their scientific works in this journal. Ilazi has said for Preportr that this journal has a powerful financial backing by the Rectorate. “It is indispensable that the UP Rectorate allocate special annual funds for publication in UP, which would ensure a continuity of publication of research and scientific works, which are one of the objectives of higher education”, says Ilazi. But this journal mainly includes areas of sociology and philosophy, whereas other departments (Psychology, Political Sciences, cultural Ethnology and Anthropology) do not have scientific journals. The Department of History used to publish the journal “Buletini”, but it no longer is being published. According to professor Muhamet Shala, who is the contact person, this journal is not being published because there is no interest of the academic staff to publish it. “Buletini Journal has published more than 2 editions, but for the last five years it is not being published. Now we are making efforts to publish it again. There are several reasons for this, one being material, but also the lack of interest by professors to publish this journal. It has been simply left aside through negligence. I believe that during this year it will start being published again”, says Mala. The Faculty of Education consists of ten programs, and publishes only one journal “Edukologjia”, which began its publication in 2001. Professor Begzad Baliu, the contact person of this journal, says that they are making

PEDAGOGY: FROM TOTAL 22 MANDATORY SUBJECTS:



9 MANDATORY SUBJECTS - ARE TAUGHT WITH SCRIPTS,



3 SUBJECTS ARE TAUGHT WITH SUMMARIES OF LECTURES



1 SUBJECT, THE PROFESSORS RECOMMENDS TO BUY HIS BOOK.

POLITICAL SCIENCES: FROM 22 MANDATORY SUBJECTS:



6 SUBJECTS ARE TAUGHT WITH SCRIPTS



1 SUBJECT WITH ALTERNATIVE BOOK

SOCIOLOGY: FROM 22 MANDATORY SUBJECTS



10 SUBJECTS ARE TAUGHT WITH SCRIPTS AND ALTERNATIVE LITERATURE



2 SUBJECTS ONLY WITH SCRIPTS



1 SUBJECT - THE PROFESSOR RECOMMENDS HER BOOK

PSYCHOLOGY: FROM 22 MANDATORY SUBJECTS



8 SUBJECTS ARE TAUGHT WITH SCRIPTS



1 SUBJECT IS TAUGHT WITH ALTERNATIVE LITERATURE



2 SUBJECTS ARE TAUGHT BY COMBINING SCRIPTS AND SUMMARIES OF LECTURES

PHILOSOPHY: FROM 22 MANDATORY SUBJECTS



6 SUBJECTS ARE TAUGHT WITH BASIC BOOKS IN ENGLISH



2 WITH SCRIPTS.

ECONOMICS: FROM TOTAL OF 21 MANDATORY SUBJECTS:



5 SUBJECTS ARE TAUGHT WITH SCRIPTS



2 PROFESSORS RECOMMEND THEIR BOOKS

BANKING AND FINANCES 21 MANDATORY SUBJECTS



8 SUBJECTS ARE TAUGHT WITH SCRIPTS

FACULTY OF LAW: FROM 48 MANDATORY SUBJECTS



1 SUBJECT IS TAUGHT WITH A SCRIPT



1 SUBJECT IS TAUGHT WITH ALTERNATIVE LITERATURE



1 SUBJECT IS TAUGHT WITH THE LAW OF 1974



1 PROFESSOR OBLIGES HIS BOOK

JOURNALISM: FROM 10 TOTAL MANDATORY SUBJECTS:



2 SUBJECTS ARE TAUGHT WITH ALTERNATIVE LITERATURE



3 SUBJECTS ARE TAUGHT WITH SUMMARIES OF LECTURES AND ALTERNATIVE LITERATURE

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

efforts to reach an agreement with a university in Canada to bolster the quality of this journal, since this journal is not present in international scientific publications. “We are expecting to equip this journal with ISSN code, because it had a code given by the National Library, but it has no international code”, says Baliu. The Faculty of Philology has nine departments, and publishes the journal “Filologji”, the journal with annual Publications of the Seminary on language, Albanian literature and culture and the Journal “Media” which began being published since 2009. All of these three journals are published annually, but are not translated in another language and are not present in the international sphere. The Faculty of Law has eight departments and published the journal “E Drejta”. This journal is published four times a year. According to professor Qerim Qerimi, the main distribution of the Journal is limited to the space of the Faculty. “Outside the university space, copies of this journal are constantly forwarded to universities which provide studies in Albanian language outside of the Republic of Kosovo, especially in Tirana and Tetova”, says Qerimi. As regards the level of scientific research, Dukagjin Pupovci from KEC says that there is no financial support for scientific research and that the research-scientific work is done individually. “The scientific research work is supported very little in Kosovo, and compared to other universities, it is a low volume of scientific research. The financing of scientific-research work is almost zero”, says Pupovci.

They don't deliver lectures regularly, but still receive full salaries

A phenomenon which has followed UP throughout these years is the absence of professors in lectures. Preportr, during this research, has carried out a simple survey with students of Faculties of Philosophy, Law and Economics, which resulted that professors who do not come at all or are otherwise late for lectures are the ones keeping political

and governmental posts. Instead, their assistants deliver the lectures and do the exams. But this phenomenon is nothing new, since the research of previous years show that professors engaged in politics do not deliver lectures regularly, while individual discussions are out of the question.

The lack of respect of lecture schedules, exams, consultations, lack respect of syllables by professors, lack of implementation of contemporary methods of teaching and evaluation, non-objective evaluation of students by professors, violations by the academic staff mentioned in the monitoring report of UP by the Student Parliament (SP). This report drafted after the research of the situation in UP about the period October 2010 – February 2011, a copy of which was obtained by “Zeri” confirms that in academic units of UP, students are forced to buy the books of professors, there is widespread vengeance of professors during evaluation, improper behavior of professors, beginning by contempt to insults and threats.

The report mentions that a part of the professors do not deliver the lectures regularly, and this is reported to happen usually with professors who hold other working posts as well, in state institutions where they have public functions, in private colleges, a part of them employ assistants, and some professors join 2-3 groups for a lecture because the professor does not have time.

Despite this fact, the Rectorate of UP continues to “award” these professors for their absences, since they get paid in full even for hours unattended. This is also confirmed by the Office of the Auditor General in the last report published in June 2013. This report recommends to the rectorate to apply monitoring controls on the process of lecturing and compensation of salaries and wages for services not performed. “In 8 tested cases of lecturers with regular contracts worth 105,488 euro, there were absences of lecturers in the teaching process. For the hours not delivered by these lecturers, according

to the regulation on personal income in the University of Prishtina. 1/126 the personnel absent in the teaching process should have been sanctioned with a salary deduction of 50 euros per hour lost, 25 euros per hour by assistants. The deduction to have been withheld, by our calculations, is 10,968 euro”, says the report. These remarks by ZAP were issued also in 2011, but they were never taken into account. “We have tested 12 cases on attendance of lectures by the Academic Staff and the realization of payments pursuant to contracts. In three cases, the payment was delivered to lecturers, although they did not fulfill the norm foreseen by the contract. This report also points out that the majority of the academic personnel possess contracts above the norm and honorary contracts, which provides for the number of additional hours to be realized. “From 25 individual payments tested in the total amount of 82,995 euro, we have noticed that they have been compensated without evidence on fulfilling the requirements of lectures and honorary norms in the value of 11,248 euro”.

The “parachutist” phenomenon continues

UP has continually seen an unequal competition between candidates to become a student. A considerable number of students throughout the years have been admitted without any criteria. This contingent of students is usually admitted after the deadline through political influence and begin their studies at the end of the first semester. Recently, during academic year 2012-2013, Prishtina University admitted around 150 students in the field of political sciences in violation of registration criteria, with some of them appearing in the administration list only from March. JNK Newspaper has reported that 144 more students were admitted in the Department of Political Sciences in the Faculty of Philosophy during the academic year 2012-2013. The registration of around 150 additional students is illegal because there was no public call pub-

lished by UP. Apart from four students admitted in March, thirty seven students appear to have been registered during dates between 9-14 January 2013, after the end of the first semester. The issue of lectures is something that Arben Hajrullahu, professor in Department of Political Sciences has also dealt with. He has said for Preportr that this has been going on for years and that this was the reason for his withdrawal from the admission process in this department. “I will mention a case, when in end of December 2010 in the Department of Political Sciences we admitted around 30-50 new students.

The reaction was that these students could not commence the studies offered by me together with those who had begun at the beginning of the semester, October. I also explained that I have nothing personal with students admitted beyond the deadline or regulations, but I also said that they would have to attend additional lectures, since the regular lectures had already begun two months earlier. And the reaction of most students admitted beyond deadlines or regulations was that they were having problems only with me and that they have the support of the government and people there to commence the studies in this manner and in this time period”, said Hajrullahu.

Nontransparent Rectorate

During the realization of this research, Preportr aimed at also doing a monitoring of the academic qualifications and scientific works of professors lecturing in UP. Although the request for access to public documents in the Rectorate was sent (24.05.2013), this institution never allowed us access to these documents, despite having waited for over 5 months and despite the regular contacts throughout this period. Also, for all issues cited in this research, Preportr has requested an interview with Ibrahim Gashi, the rector of Prishtina University “Hasan Prishtina”, but this was not made possible due to justification that the rector has a loaded agenda.

Faculty of Mathematical-Natural Sciences:
5 departments, no scientific journal

Faculty of Economics:
5 departments, no scientific journal

Faculty of Construction and Architecture
2 departments, no scientific journals

Faculty of Electric and Computer Engineering
6 departments, no scientific journal

Faculty of Mechanic Engineering
4 departments, no scientific journal

Faculty of Medicine
6 departments, no scientific journal

Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary
6 departments, no scientific journal

Faculty of Geosciences and Technology - branch of Mitrovica
4 departments, no scientific journal

Faculty of Geosciences and Technology
4 departments, no scientific journal

Faculty of Applied sciences - Ferizaj
3 departments, no scientific journal