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April 22, 2025

Prof. Ing. Vladimir Kutis
Head of Science Advisory Committee FE STU
Ilkovicova 3, 841 04 Bratislava, Slovenska Republika

Dear Professor Ing. Vladimir Kutis,

this letter is in support of Dr. Peter Bokes for granting him the Professorship in specialization of Physics Engineering at Slovak Technical University (STU). This letter extends upon my previous recommendation from August 2024. Let me restate what I wrote in that communication:

I know Dr. Bokes from his short visit at my group at U. of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in late nineties and from our collaboration afterwards when he was a member of the research group of Prof. Ivan Stich. At that time, he did a solid piece of work on electronic structure of protonated hydrogen clusters and on reconstruction of silicon surface using computational quantum Monte Carlo methods. That required quite a bit of effort since quantum Monte Carlo methods are quite involved and at that time they were used only at a few top laboratories worldwide. He definitely showed excellent skills and persistency to successfully finishing these research tasks which were published soon thereafter. Later he explored new research direction under the guidance of Prof. Rex Godby (U. York, England) which has led to an impactful work in transport based on analytical Green's functions and computational approaches. After further successful research activities in Japan, he returned to the Department of Physics at Slovak Technical University where he got engaged in teaching and research activities for about two decades while he also spent some time in industry in engineering and management positions.

For almost two decades, I was able to see only from distance his professional growth and accomplishments. Fortunately, recently, we got a chance to reconnect at the occasion of celebrating 90th birthday of both his and mine "Diplomovka" advisor, Doc. Ivan Cerven. Also in this aspect of organizing such an event he proved to be a very capable and communicative organizer as it is expected from an academic professional of high rank.

I remember Dr. Bokes as an excellent electronic structure physicist with great insights into physics problems at hand. His publication record is commensurate with the amount of time he spent in research over the last 25 years or so and therefore is pretty solid. He has an impeccable record of teaching at Slovak Technical University variety of courses in physics while being also an author or co-author of corresponding pedagogical materials. On the personal side he is very punctual, thoughtful and with excellent personal and management skills. This has been also independently and recently confirmed by his current appointment as a Director of Nuclear and Engineering Institute at Slovak Technical University. He is a fully qualified professional that will carry great traditions represented by previous generations of Slovak condensed matter and chemical physicists at STU (Ilkovic, Krempasky, Cerven, Barta and others) forward.

I revisited all the provided documentation for promotion to Professor at Slovak Technical University such as publications, research impact and citations, international recognition, his pedagogic activities and professional experience including work in information technology industry. His international recognition is further corroborated by enthusiastic recommendation letters by highly-ranked Professors from two EU and UK Universities.

I can therefore conclude that Dr. Peter Bokes fulfils all the required criteria in all aspects of professional activities pertaining to the Professor degree. I recommend Dr. Peter Bokes for his promotion to Professor in Physics Engineering at Slovak Technical University.

Sincerely yours,

Lubos Mitas

Distinguished University Professor, Department of Physics, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, USA