Presitendial Report

ELTE TTK DÖK

Botond G. Gereczi

July – August – September 2026

Distinguished Assembly of Delegates,

I hereby wish to inform you of the duties I have performed as President of the PhD Student Council of the Faculty of Science. I have prepared this report covering the months of July, August, and September 2026.

Event Calendar

July 1	Consultation with József Pálfy, FÖDI Program Director
July 1	Doctoral Council (TDT) meeting
July 16	Extraordinary Doctoral Council meeting
August 24	Presentation on the doctoral procedure
August 24	Issue raised regarding the KDK (Doctoral Representative Committee)
August 28	Faculty of Science Student Union (TTK DÖK) Delegate Assembly
August 31	Doctoral Council meeting
September 3	Email to Alexandra Éles, FÖDI administrator
September 8	Extraordinary Doctoral Council meeting
September 8	Institute of Earth Sciences Council meeting
September 16	Dean's Council and Faculty Council meeting
September 16	EDÖK (University-level Student Union) Board meeting
September 18	Email to Vice-Dean László Túri
End of September	Tasks related to the nomination period for the Doctoral Delegate Assembly

Report

At the Doctoral Council (TDT) meeting on July 1, decisions were made regarding admission results and the lists of admitted students for all six Doctoral Schools of the Faculty of Science (TTK); these lists were formally approved. Additionally, resolutions were passed concerning requests for special consideration and the awarding of PhD degrees. On the same day, I held a personal consultation with József Pálfy, Program Director of the Doctoral School of Earth Sciences, regarding the concept of a future "Doctoral Survival Guide/Handbook"; we scheduled the preparation of this document for the autumn. At the extraordinary meeting of the Doctoral Council (TDT) on July 16, a decision was reached regarding the proposed list of EKÖP scholarship recipients. I abstained from the vote, citing a personal conflict of interest.

On August 24, the customary start-of-semester presentation regarding the doctoral degree acquisition process took place. I have been invited to these events on all previous occasions to welcome the doctoral students; I value this opportunity, as it helps raise the profile of the Doctoral Student Union (DÖK).

On August 24, doctoral students admitted to the Cooperative Doctoral Program received an alarming letter. The content of the letter raised concerns about the potential failure to establish their student status, so I immediately contacted Vice-Dean László Túri. Fortunately, he reassured me the following day that the necessary paperwork had been prepared, ensuring the student status could be established.

I initiated an extraordinary assembly of delegates for August 28, as the previous DÖK delegates serving on the Council of the Doctoral School of Physics and the Council of the Institute of Physics and Astronomy had resigned their positions upon obtaining their doctoral student status. We elected Zoltán Kovács to replace them.

From the end of August onwards, I endeavored to find solutions as quickly as possible to the unusually high volume of inquiries I received. I requested to be excused from the Doctoral Committee (TDT) meeting held on August 31st. In addition to several routine matters, the agenda included a proposal allowing doctoral candidates to receive their degree even if their scientific publication had not yet been published, provided it had already been accepted for publication. I fully support this initiative and conveyed my stance to Vice-Dean László Túri. However, I did raise the suggestion (on Sept. 18) that the deadline for holding the doctoral defense—currently set at 60 days from the dispatch of the doctoral reviews—might be extended by an additional 30 days, citing the internal regulations of another faculty as a precedent. We sought legal advice on this matter almost immediately; unfortunately, it turned out that our interpretation of the rules was incorrect, meaning the requirement could only be altered through an amendment to a government decree—a legal instrument higher in the regulatory hierarchy. I am willing to make an effort to bring about this change, though the faculty leadership believes success is far from guaranteed, as they had previously attempted to modify the rule without success.

On September 3rd, in response to an inquiry, I outlined the key concepts of the "Doctoral Handbook"—developed in consultation with Professor Pálfy—to Alexandra Éles, the administrator of the Doctoral School of Earth Sciences; she subsequently drafted the handbook by fully incorporating these ideas. I believe this represents a significant step forward and a great relief for doctoral school students.

On September 8, we voted to approve minor amendments to the Faculty of Science (TTK) Doctoral Regulations (incorporating provisions regarding KDK—the Complex Doctoral Examination). However, I had asked to be excused from the Institute of Earth Sciences Council meeting held in person that same day; yet, based on the subsequent minutes, no issues relevant to doctoral students were discussed there.

At the Dean's Council and Faculty Council meeting on September 16, the only development relevant to doctoral students was the Faculty Council's decision to allocate funds from the faculty excellence budget to cover the increased teaching assistant salaries for KDK-status doctoral students. Additionally, some funding will be available for the development of student community spaces.

At the EDÖK (Doctoral Student Union) board meeting, we discussed ways to involve doctoral students in student public life. During the application period, I reached out to several doctoral students personally, via email, and through messaging apps; I also published posts on the TTK DÖK Facebook page and contacted the president of the TTK HÖK (Faculty Student Union) as well.

I reached out to them so we could advertise the elections on their advertising spaces. I put up the posters myself. Although I do not yet have the final list of candidates, I am pleased that the application period did not need to be extended.