

ELTE TTK DÖK Presidential Report

Géza Botond Gereczi

June, 2026

Dear Delegates!

I would like to inform you about my tasks as the President of the Doctoral Student Self-Government of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. I prepared the report for June 2026, and I would also like to describe my planned activities for the summer period.

Calendar

2 nd of June	Institute Council
10 th of June	Dean's Council and Faculty Council
23 rd of June	TDT meeting
25 th of June	Extraordinary TDT meeting
29 th of June	Inquiry regarding a complicated matter
30 th of June	Consultation with József Pálffy

My expected activities during the summer period

July 1. TDT meeting

July 16. or 17. TDT meeting

August 29 or 30. TDT meeting

Report

On June 2, the Institute Council of Earth Sciences held a meeting, where the main issue was the results of the assistant professor applications. In the case of one of the applications, serious competition developed. From the perspective of doctoral students, however, what may be important is that this is not the first time that a delegate has had a negative opinion about the Doctoral, Habilitation and International Affairs Group in his speech, which I think can be explained primarily by workload. This workload is expected to decrease next year, because the deadline for starting the degree-granting procedure for students participating in the old, 3-year program expired in June, which meant starting a lot of extra procedures from the beginning of 2026.

There was also a TDT meeting on June 2, from which I had to request an excuse due to another presentation related to my doctoral thesis. Based on the minutes, the numbers of doctoral students who can be admitted and the number of applicants were presented.

On June 8, unfortunately, I had to face the fact that in some doctoral schools the DÖK delegate still does not have voting rights in the Doctoral Council, although the regulations were published in October. If this should arise as a problem in other doctoral schools, the following provision should be cited as a reason for initiating a change in the doctoral regulations in the doctoral school council.

Volume II of the Organizational and Operational Regulations of Eötvös Loránd University, Appendix No. 6 of the Student Requirements System, Appendix No. 6/6 of the Doctoral Regulations (Doctoral Regulations of the Faculty of Science)

3§ (2) states the following:

⁵³¹(2) The doctoral school council is a body consisting of the head of the doctoral school, program heads and elected members, to which doctoral students may delegate 1 member with voting rights. The chair of the council is the head of the doctoral school. The doctoral school may also invite other members with the right to consult. The number of members of the council shall be 8-18, and the number of external members shall be 2-6. The elected members of the council are elected by the core members of the doctoral schools for a period of 5 years from among the school's lecturers and supervisors. The head of the school proposes the elected members.

⁵³¹ Amended by Resolution CXCIX/2025. (X. 13.) Sen. No. Effective: October 14, 2025.

The Dean's and Faculty Council on June 10th was very long, as there were many appointment issues, and a discussion arose about the introduction of the artificial intelligence course initiated by the Rector's Office as a criterion subject for all forms of training, including doctoral training. The proposal was only accepted by the Faculty Council if several conditions were met and with significant votes against and abstentions.

At the TDT meeting on June 23rd, we voted on the initiation of several degree acquisition procedures, the awarding of degrees, accreditation, and the examination board. In addition, the summer work schedule was also agreed upon.

At the extraordinary TDT on June 25, we voted to initiate the degree-granting procedure for a large number of additional students.

On June 29, I received a request that required more investigation and several days before I could give a credible answer to the question posed.

However, it is worth noting that Hungarian state-sponsored doctoral students typically have significantly stricter rules than Stipendium Hungaricum doctoral students (SH), and that the scholarship opportunities for SH students are also slightly better (based on Stipendium Hungaricum Programme Operational Regulations / Effective from: 11 February 2026), despite the fact that their basic scholarship is the same. SH students do not have the obligation to acquire credits, and when they start their studies, they receive a one-time grant of 400,000 forints, and in the absence of a dormitory place, they receive a monthly housing allowance of 40,000 forints and an annual grant of 65,000 forints for health insurance. Hungarian state scholarship holders cannot benefit from the latter, and Hungarian state students must earn 20 credits per semester in most doctoral schools to avoid being reclassified to a self-funded form of education, while an SH student can receive a scholarship up to the complex exam (typically the end of the 2nd year) after admission. Negotiations regarding a possible increase in the Hungarian state scholarship are ongoing. It is worth drawing attention to the fact that the SH scholarships should also be changed in line with the Hungarian state scholarship, so that neither Hungarian nor foreign doctoral students feel “second-class”.

On June 30, I met with one of the program leaders of the Doctoral School of Earth Sciences, József Pálffy, with whom we agreed that we would compile a “survival guidebook” for newly admitted and already admitted doctoral students during the summer and fall, so that they would be less lost in various questions. I also recommend the latter to my fellow delegates, to initiate the compilation of such a guide for their own doctoral schools as well. I also discussed the comments I received from the doctoral school and the faculty with a view to improvement, including the possibilities for reforming the annual report, experiences with the KDK, the difficulties in drawing down the doctoral budget, the voting rights of the doctoral representative, and the online broadcasting of doctoral defenses.

Thank you for reading my report, and if you have any questions, please contact me with confidence.