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CONFIDENTIAL

22nd December, 2018

Dear Madam/Sir,

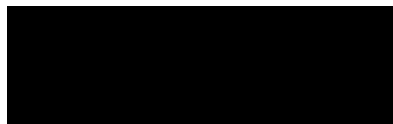
Re: Professor Jan Večeř

I have been asked to write a review of Jan's habilitation thesis which charts his influential work on Asian options over the last two decades. The thesis is a self-contained document written in a highly approachable style. The key ideas take the center stage while the technicalities are taken care of rigorously but with a minimum of fuss in the referenced literature. The reader should not be seduced into thinking that the topic is somehow easy. It is merely made to *look* easy by the author's mastery of the subject. Indeed, if we cast our eyes back to the start of the new millennium, there is absolutely nothing in the literature to prepare us for the radically new way Jan started thinking about the pricing of exotic options.

My mandate comes with an instruction that the "review should contain [an] explicit recommendation on the question of whether the applicant should or should not be appointed as an associate professor". On this point my answer is an emphatic *yes* and I congratulate the department on having the luxury of appointing Jan as an *associate* professor. The thesis as a whole is a clear evidence that Jan is an accomplished statistician and financial mathematician, as well as a thoughtful pedagogue, well beyond the rank of the proposed appointment.

In 'The Ancestor's Tale', Richard Dawkins mentions the popular myth of "the larval sea squirt which, when the time comes, settles down to a sedentary life and 'eats its brain like an associate professor getting tenure'." Jan's journey home via U.S., Japan, and Germany has been long, rewarding, and full of sacrifice. Without wishing to prejudge the panel's decision, I believe that this appointment will not so much be an end of a journey as a start of the next important chapter and that Jan, as one of the most original thinkers of his generation, will continue to surprise us with novel insights for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,



Aleš Černý
Professor of Finance