Supervisor’s Report on B. A. Thesis
T. S. ELIOT AND WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: THE DYNAMICS OF INFLUENCE
by Maryna Lakhno

I am very happy to endorse this thesis, and I recommend the grade of excellent (výborné). These are the reasons.

First, the student has taken on two major writers, separated by several centuries, and this requires a working knowledge of both oeuvres as well as some of the critical commentaries on them. This would be ambitious enough for a thesis at BA level, only Ms Lakhno goes further to investigate the connections between them, effectively doubling an already large workload. Tracing Shakespeare’s influence on Eliot, she has had to follow the development of Shakespeare’s reputation in the intervening centuries, demonstrating the state of affairs when Eliot emerged in the early twentieth century.

Second, the student carried out the above work with diligence and judiciousness. Although she had to consult a wide range of works, both primary and secondary, she at no point loses sight of her goal, and the result is a coherent and illuminating piece of writing on Eliot’s poetry and its relation to the literary tradition.

Third, she is alert to the twists and turns of Eliot’s poetry, of the ways in which he can be both derivative and original (indeed, original because so derivative in some places). She never simplifies the poetry to make her points, but leaves its ambiguity and allusiveness intact.

I look forward to her defence, and the response of the reviewer.

Doc. Justin Quinn, Ph.D.