Opinion of the Ethics Committee of Kazakh-American Free University

Minutes of the Ethics Committee Meeting No. 2 dated 6 October 2026

1.	Full name of the doctoral student	Neske Alexander
2.	Doctoral specialty (educational programme)	8D04101 – Management
3.	Period of doctoral studies	2022–2025
4.	Dissertation title, date of approval	"Managing Sustainability-Related Complexity in Supply Chains: A Capability-Based Managerial Framework for Organizational Response" (Russian title: «Управление сложностью, связанной с устойчивым развитием, в цепочках поставок: управленческая модель организационного реагирования, основанная на организационных способностях»). Approved by Order No. 734-st dated 28 October 2022.
5.	Information on the academic advisors: full name (patronymic, if any), positions and places of employment, academic degrees, citizenship	Domestic academic advisor: Ilona Vladimirovna Bordiyanu, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Business, Kazakh-American Free University (Ust-Kamenogorsk, Republic of Kazakhstan); citizenship: Republic of Kazakhstan. Foreign academic advisor: Hans-Christian Brauweiler, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Sciences in Business, Management and Economics, Chair of Business Administration, Management Accounting & Internal Audit, Westsächsische Hochschule Zwickau (Zwickau, Federal Republic of Germany); citizenship: Federal Republic of Germany.
6.	Objects of research	Organizations in the supply chains of Germany and Kazakhstan as systems responding to sustainable development requirements.
7.	Violations in the planning, evaluation, selection and conduct of research	No violations were identified.
8.	Violations in the dissemination of research results	No violations were identified.
9.	How were the rights, safety and well-being of the research objects protected (where living organisms and their habitats are involved)?	The research does not involve living organisms or their habitats. Study I involved interviews with representatives of German organizations; the organizations are anonymized in the text of the dissertation, and the interview transcripts were sent to the participants to confirm the accuracy of their statements (Appendix F of the dissertation). Study II is based on publicly available reports of Kazakhstani companies; no confidential internal data were used.
10.	Use of artificial intelligence technologies in the preparation of the dissertation (taking into account the doctoral student's statement; date of approval by the academic advisors and the Ethics Committee)	The use of artificial intelligence technologies has been identified and disclosed by the doctoral student. Technology: ChatGPT; developer: OpenAI; version, as stated by the doctoral student: GPT-6 Astra. Stage and nature of use: revision of the manuscript; checking of the language and of the logical coherence of the argumentation in the Introduction, Chapters 1–3

		and the Conclusion. Prompt: "Review this chapter for unclear wording, gaps in the line of argument and inconsistencies between the text, the tables and the figures, and indicate the sections in which changes might be needed". All revisions were made by the author; the results were checked by the author against the primary sources. Doctoral student's statement dated 25 February 2026; approved by the academic advisors I.V. Bordiyanu and H.-C. Brauweiler, and by the Ethics Committee. The reference to the AI technology is provided in the dissertation (source [194], a statement in the Introduction, and a note at the end of each chapter and of the Conclusion) in accordance with paragraphs 5-2 and 6-1 of the Rules for Awarding Degrees. The scientific results, propositions, recommendations and conclusions of the dissertation were formulated by the doctoral student independently (paragraph 5 of the Rules for Awarding Degrees).

Chair of the Ethics Committee

Krauze **Nina Vasilyevna Krause, Candidate of Economic Sciences, Associate Professor (Docent) in Economics**

(signature, surname, first name, patronymic (if any))

Secretary of the Ethics Committee

Trofimova **Yuliya Vladimirovna Trofimova**

(signature, surname, first name, patronymic (if any))