

Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

as you have already read in the Rector's e-mail of 12.03.2020, some things will be fundamentally different in the coming summer semester than we are used to. In order to make sure that the course of study will be as uninterrupted as possible, I have summarized the most important details known so far and also the questions to which we ourselves do not have the answers yet.

- The classroom courses do not start on 06.04.2020 but at the earliest on 04.05.2020.
- This means neither a shortening nor a postponement of the semester.
- This means that in the first four weeks (as things stand today) you will have to work on the material of the courses in self-study.
- To make this possible, the lecturers will provide you with appropriate materials and assistance.
- The exact nature of this support will be communicated to you directly by the lecturers.
- It is essential that you pay attention to the latest information on the websites of the lecturers, the pages of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and the corresponding social media channels.
- By the end of the week, Opal courses will be created for all courses held in the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering this semester.
- **Please register immediately for all courses you wish to attend this semester.**
- **Please make sure that you receive and read all mails that come in via your TUD mail account.**
- These mails and the information in the Opal Courses are the most direct way we can inform you about changes in teaching in the coming weeks.
- This is of great importance, as at the moment we can in no way foresee how the situation will develop in the coming weeks.
- For example, it cannot be predicted whether, for example, the servers of the German Research Network (DFN), which in principle can be used for online lectures (which is certainly the ideal variant for the necessary distance learning), will be able to withstand the stresses of nationwide use with many lectures.
- Corresponding bottlenecks can then lead to changes in the strategies of the individual chairs with regard to support for self-study, which in turn are communicated via the Opal courses and the corresponding TUD mail systems.
- If, as a result of the suspension of classroom teaching, you find yourself in arrears with your current coursework and diploma theses (in particular

experimental theses or theses that are otherwise tied to resources of the TUD that are only available on the university campus and in the professorships), you can apply to the Examination Committee for an extension for an important reason.

- The meetings of the examination board and the study commissions will be held - if necessary - via Internet-based forms of communication. This means that you can and must continue to submit corresponding applications by e-mail (from your TUD e-mail account) on time.
- **Current diploma defences can in principle still be conducted as "ghost defences", i.e. without an audience.**
- **Should the university be closed down, or should it be necessary to refrain from such a form of defence for health reasons, the supervising university teachers can issue you with a certificate stating that you have passed the diploma examination with a grade of at least 4.0 in all cases (i.e. including the defence which has not yet been taken). On the basis of this certificate, the Examinations Office can issue you - if all other examination requirements have been met - with a certificate confirming that you have passed the diploma examination, which you can use, for example, to prove your diploma to an employer.** The defence will then be made up for as soon as business is back to normal and then you will also receive the certificate with grades.
- The question of how long this state of affairs will continue in this way cannot be answered at the moment, nor can the question of how examinations are conducted at the end of the semester in large courses if the current state of affairs extends over several months.
- We will make decisions here dynamically and in line with the respective situation and always communicate these promptly.

So much for the current status of the first weeks of the 2020 summer semester.

If you have any questions or concerns about the whole situation with regard to the teaching in these weeks, please send them to [kummerkasten-mw@tu-dresden.de](mailto:kummerkasten-mw@tu-dresden.de) and please use (in contrast to the normal use of the Kummerkasten) your TUD mail address.

We will do everything in our power to ensure that teaching in the summer semester 2020 is conducted in a form that is easily manageable for you, regardless of the current difficulties.

Stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach