

Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

Two - albeit shortened - weeks of "teaching without a lecture hall" are now behind us. And when I look at the feedback we've received both in the lectures and centrally through the FSR, it seems we've made a pretty good start. It is clear that there are still many areas where adjustments can, and possibly must, be made. My request at this point: If there are problems in individual courses, please contact the responsible lecturers directly. Explain the problem and make suggestions how it could be solved. We are all learners at the moment - and we lecturers in particular have to learn intensively, because we have to try out completely new concepts, sometimes after many years of teaching experience. We are dependent on your support.

And if the feedback doesn't show any effect at all somewhere, there is still the Kummerkasten ;-) - and I do my best to process everything that ends up there within 3 days at the latest.

But I have also been asked a whole series of questions, which I will try to answer here for everyone:

- The most important one concerns the semester break during the Pentecost holidays. For this week, as well as for the Dies Academicus, the Prorektor for Education and International Affairs has approved the face-to-face teaching in principle.

We have discussed the question of whether we want to use these times in the faculty management and also with the colleagues who are active in teaching and have come to the conclusion that it makes sense to use the Dies - where nothing of the usual Dies events can take place anyway - for teaching. We don't want to use the Pentecost week for classroom teaching (the only exception is the Summer School IRCC (International Refrigeration and Compressor Course), but this is not corona-related, but every summer like this and the people concerned are aware of it).

With this we want to make sure that after the very exhausting weeks with curfew and permanent isolation there is the possibility for everyone to find some rest, to go home if necessary and to avoid the whole stress of the current situation for a few days.

- Already mentioned last time was the failure of the vehicle aerodynamics. Here, the study commission decided on a replacement subject in its meeting on 15.04.2020, so that the module can be completed this semester without any difficulties.
- The StuKo meeting also decided on the catalogues for the elective modules - these should be online in their final form on Monday.

- Next Monday there will be another update of the Opal course list. In this list the learning room mechanical Engineering will finally have its place, because it will also start in the Matrix next week.
- Again and again the question about the insights of the exams comes up. Here we are currently in discussion with the TUD's crisis management team as to how far a limited insight can be made possible for those who have not passed a module and are possibly even threatened by an enb decision, if the contact bans are relaxed to a limited extent. As soon as we have a release, I will get back to you on this topic.
- And, of course, we are all concerned with the question of how the examinations are to be held at the end of the semester. There are already sufficient concepts here for oral examinations - from examinations in secure virtual rooms to examinations held at a great distance in university rooms - and they work.

As far as written exams are concerned, much depends on how the restrictions on contacts develop in the coming weeks. A normal written exam with the usual seat spacing actually fulfils the distance rules, so we hope that we can conduct these exams in this way. At the same time, however, we are working flat out on solutions for online exams. We will see in a few weeks what we will really use then. But one thing is clear: Of course there will be exams and the summer semester will be completed as usual!

- One question that does not go directly to us as a faculty concerns the crediting of the semester to the standard period of study. Here, the German Rectors' Conference has already made the following statement: "It should be possible for students who are unable to complete their studies due to corona restrictions to complete them within an extended standard period of study." How this will be executed in the end will have to be clarified in the coming weeks. What is important here, as with all other open questions, is that we will do everything we can to ensure that this semester - as unusual as it may be - goes off with minimal disadvantages for you.

Furthermore: If you have any questions or concerns regarding the whole situation with regard to teaching in these weeks, please send them to kummerkasten-mw@tu-dresden.de and please use your TUD mail address without exception (in contrast to the normal use of the Kummerkasten).

And there is still the request to you: If you notice particularly great teaching offers in this complicated situation - please let me know the corresponding examples (preferably with course, special concept, name of the lecturer and if

possible his e-mail and telephone number) - the TUD started on Thursday to present corresponding examples in the social media channels (<https://www.facebook.com/TUDresden/photos/ms.c.eJw1yNENgDAUAsCNzIMWgf0XMxp7n7fukB1WsDtzrTdSzRfuiSgCaP8RC9nbxAPUQw3H.bps.a.3682048065202123/3682288751844721/?type=3heater>) and we should make the lighthouses in mechanical engineering public!

So much for today.

Stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach