

Dear students of the faculty of mechanical engineering,

on 16.03.20 came the first mail with information about a difficult start of the summer semester which was assumed at that time. Now we are 4 months ahead, a complete semester with "teaching without a lecture hall" is behind us and we are all much more tired than is normally the case at the end of a semester. But: We have made it. Despite the almost complete absence of attendance courses, a complete semester has taken place. Now the examination period is still coming up and it also has a number of experimental components, but as far as I can see, everything is well prepared and should work well at this point.

What I was very happy about was the statistics of the exam registrations in HIS. Last summer semester we had about 20,000 enrolments for examinations. This semester we had 18,000 enrolments. Now you could say - well, 10% less is quite good for the difficult situation. But: currently 13% fewer students are enrolled in mechanical engineering than last year. This means that in the end even more exams have been registered than usual. And that also means that despite all the difficulties, despite the fact that university without attendance is much less fun than normal, you really stayed on the ball throughout the semester. That is really great and a huge relief for me!

Now a few hints that might be helpful at the end of the semester:

- If you have digital exams coming up, you should already register on the **OPAL Exam@TUD** exam platform <https://exam.zih.tu-dresden.de>, especially if you have not taken part in a test exam. Otherwise you cannot take part in the exam!
- The second point is already moving towards the coming semester and thus towards the possibility of return of examination results. That one returns a 5 is somehow easy to understand ;-). But consider very well if you return other exams in the hope to get a better mark next time. (a) If you have to take the exam again, you will have a higher exam load in the coming semesters. And (b) you cannot know beforehand whether the exam will go better next time. And once you have returned the grade, it is gone. Then the next attempt counts! So: **Attention!**
- And the next point where I would like to advise caution is the possibility that the semester is not taken into account for your duration of study. That sounds good at first, and as dean of studies I'd like to see it as well, because it improves our statistics ;-). But: Make sure to check with all offices and organizations from which you might receive money (BAföG, child benefit, scholarships, ...), if the non-accreditation can have a harmful influence. We have received initial information that there are probably

problems with BAföG in this regard. I'm working on it, but as long as there is no official all-clear here, too: **Watch out!**

What else is important?

- On the "bulletin board" with offers for work in the specialist internship (<https://bildungsportal.sachsen.de/opal/auth/RepositoryEntry/23156424707/>), a number of exciting topics have been added and some topics are already taken - it's worth browsing!

Towards the end this mail is now a little bit different than the previous ones, because from today on I'm out of order until mid of August. Meanwhile 17.000 mails since the beginning of the crisis have made me really tired and so that I can start again next semester a break is urgently needed.

Therefore an urgent request - in contrast to the last weeks I will not or only very, very sporadically look at my mail in the near future. So if there is something really urgent, please contact the examination office, if my intervention is necessary, I will be informed and take care of it.

For now, keep up on the last meters,
good luck in the tests and stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach