

Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

before the start of the lecture-free Whitsun week, there are a number of important things in connection with the "teaching without a lecture hall", which at one point or another can certainly lead to a somewhat more relaxed free week, because a few things have become a lot clearer.

And - how could it be otherwise - actually all this information revolves around the topic of examinations. And, in connection with this, also about many questions that reached me about the Senate's decision on examinations this semester and for which we first needed a legal clarification (many thanks to the legal department for the quick feedback).

Let's start with the Senate resolution and all the questions about the return of examination results and the non-accreditation of the semester:

- First of all, the Senate resolution contains the wording that no credit can be given if "examinations were not provided in full". This really means - if you have not completed even one exam of the semester, you can ask for non-accreditation of the semester!
- This also applies if you have completed all your exams and then return one of them, and it is also independent of what kind of exam it was: written exam, practical exercises, study work,...
- If you do not have the semester credited, this has no effect on the number of exams you have taken - they count and therefore remain with you.
- I cannot give a global answer to the question of what effect non-accreditation has on BaföG, child benefit or scholarships (no one can): Here, you absolutely have to go into contact with the relevant office, i.e. the funding agency, **in advance!**
- Since the non-accreditation can only take place in the coming semester, the question also arose as to what effect this would have if the standard period of study was exceeded. First of all, it is clear: Nothing happens anyway before the 4th semester of exceeding the standard period of study. But then you would have failed your diploma for the first time - which in turn is prevented again by non-accreditation of the semester.
- The standard period of study is also connected with living in a student hall of residence. If you are affected by this: Contact the Studentenwerk immediately - an extension is possible (<https://www.studentenwerk-dresden.de/wohnen/verlaengerung-mietvertrag.html>)!
- As far as the return of grades is concerned, this can really be done without giving reasons, and of course such grades are not noted anywhere in the transcript of records.

But actually, we want to pass as many exams as possible at the end of this semester, and here too, the situation has become much clearer:

- We have really used all the ways in the faculty to provide the necessary space so that all examinations can take place in a reasonable form. Entire groups of exams, such as in Technical Design and major exams such as BWL, Heat Transfer and MAT, are conducted digitally - a huge effort. For other exams, the time is reduced - all in all, we save almost half of the attendance times we normally use in summer.
- You can find out exactly what happens in your individual modules from the information given by the lecturers.
- And all in all, the space has been created so that the exams that cannot be taken digitally can be taken in the normal exam form.
- We will know exactly when that will be in the next 2-3 weeks. At the moment completely new room distributions have to be made, plans have to be adapted to the distance rules and the rooms that have become free have to be included in the planning. This is a highly complex puzzle and naturally takes time. Because in the end it must fit...
- But it is already clear that the entire time window - from the first to the seventh double lesson and from Monday to Saturday - really must be used during the core examination period. Where we then lie with our exams, we will have to see.

Finally, two points that are really important to me:

- Just as we choose different formats for the exams, the lecturers choose different techniques for the lectures and exercises. And of course you too have your preferred formats - of course. It's also clear that this doesn't always fit 100%, it's like when we have Powerpoint lectures, blackboard and OHP use or tablet PCs in the "Teaching with Lecture Hall". The request would be: Even if a lecturer is not using your favourite tool - take it as it is. Just as you usually do. If you want to urge lecturers to use other formats, remember - all lecturers at the TU are under mega-stress at the moment. Everything is different, everything is new and you have to find your way around. Once you have found a tool that you can handle, you stick to it - logically, otherwise the stress doubles. And nobody can do that anymore at the moment.
- And the second point: A lot of effort is really put into keeping all the lectures going - take this opportunity. I know that it is not always easy to keep motivation high - I feel the same way - but we can only be successful together during the semester. So please: Take whatever you can get out of the lectures and take whatever you can get out of the exams during the

exam period - you can only win. After all, it's a jump with a net and a double bottom (as already shown above) ;-).

In this sense, first of all, Happy Pentecost and stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach