

Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

by now, word should have gotten around - the coming winter semester will, unfortunately, in many respects hardly or not at all differ from the previous semester ☹.

In a conversation with the new Prorector for Education, we (the Dean and I) received important information about the course of the coming teaching periods.

- For the coming semester, an extended distance regulation will apply to all courses, where a distance of 1.5m is expected to allow for movement. In concrete terms, this means that the distance between two seats will be at least 2.5m (measured in the MOL lecture hall using the stickers showing the permitted seats), which will lead to a dramatic reduction in the number of seats. E.g. MOL213H - 12 seats, PAU212H - 4 seats or HSZ AUDI - 102 seats (the numbers here vary between 81 and 102, the 102 comes from an official list of the PBI from 27.07.20). As a rule, this is a reduction of more than one order of magnitude in the number of places, over 70 of the 140 teaching rooms of the TUD have ≤ 10 places. According to information from the Prorector Education, this occupancy structure is a decision of the last university management, which according to the PB was probably due to pressure from the StuRa and was finally confirmed by the current university management on Tuesday last week.
- In planning, we will therefore first try to realize the exercises in presence in the 1st and 3rd semester. If there are still capacities left, we will see what happens next...
- This means that we have to assume that all lectures without exception must be digital.

In order to be able to deal with the problems arising here as well as possible, we will publish the first version of the Opal Catalogue for the winter semester in the Opal Course "Mechanical Engineering without Lecture Hall"

(<https://bildungsportal.sachsen.de/opal/auth/RepositoryEntry/23116349497?4>)

towards the end of next week. Please register now for all lectures you want to attend in the winter semester! We need this information in order to make the room planning as efficient as possible and thus to realize as much presence teaching as possible!

Another very important point concerns the mail migration that ZIH carried out last week. Since this migration, the old Horde mail accounts no longer exist and only the Exchange accounts are used. I.e. these info mails and also all other information that is sent (e.g. also those sent via the Opal system) will only reach you if you use (and also read ;-)) this Exchange mailbox. That means, if you get

this mail, everything is ok in this respect. And at this point we have a problem, because the message will only reach those who have everything in order with the mail, the others will not get the hint...

Hence my request: Use your communication channels and ask your fellow students if they have received this mail. And if not - inform them about the move and about the fact that it is very important to complete this transfer in order to be up to date in the coming digital semester!

What else is important?

- There are still a number of exciting topics available on the "bulletin board" with offers for **work experience** (<https://bildungsportal.sachsen.de/opal/auth/RepositoryEntry/23156424707/>) - it's worth browsing!
- Already in the last mail I had pointed out the **competition that** the TU announced for especially fancy e-learning formats of the last semester. Proposals can only come from students and must be submitted online at www.tud.de/elearning/schmuckstueck. **Deadline here is already 31.08.2020!** It would be nice if the gallery that is to be created there would also include several examples from the field of mechanical engineering ;-)
- And once again, a look towards the winter semester: We will hopefully be able to welcome many first-year students who will then unfortunately have to enter a university that is still largely digital. To make sure that this still works, the **ESE is particularly important this year**. And the FSR is still looking for helpers. So please register at <https://tu-dresden.de/ing/maschinenwesen/fsr/der-fachschaftsrat/mitmachen> to help!

And as always: If you have questions and concerns in the entire Corona situation with regard to teaching, please send them to kummerkasten-mw@tu-dresden.de and use your TUD mail address without exception (in contrast to the normal use of the Kummerkasten).

So far at the moment, do not let your courage sink and stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach