Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

with the end of lectures this Friday we have reached a point, that no one would have thought conceivable a year ago: a complete digital academic year lies behind us - at least as far as lectures etc. are concerned. A crazy time that no one would have thought possible and that has really demanded the maximum from all of us. At this point, I would like to express my respect and thanks to all of you for getting through this difficult time, for not giving up and trying to keep your studies going - that's super!

And now some information that may be important for the next days and weeks:

- First, let's move on to the next topic - the exams:
  - I already said last time that by now about 80% of the exams have landed in the digital space. Due to the rescheduling, there are still **postponements of exam dates and times**. Please check [https://tud.link/3513](https://tud.link/3513) regularly - the lists are usually updated on a weekly basis.
  - If you want to take a **resit exam** and are not enrolled in the Opal course of the course, be sure to contact the relevant examiners directly for the necessary information, or the contact persons for teaching at the chairs!
  - The question has arisen whether you can **return results** again: Yes, this is also possible again this semester, but I warn again against returning passed exams. This only increases your exam load in subsequent semesters and it is definitely not a free attempt - i.e. if you do worse in the subsequent exam, the worse exam counts!
  - Also important for digital exams - and often requested: You are responsible for the **internet connection** and the overall functioning of your technology!

- Then this week we had the **information event on the specialist internship** - the slides of the event are available here [https://tud.link/jl6h](https://tud.link/jl6h) and next week the event will also be available as a video.

- For the coming semester, things are looking very good at the moment with regard to the **hybrid attendance days** in the 2nd, 4th and probably also the 6th semester - i.e. days on which lectures take place in attendance at the university, which are offered in parallel synchronously and asynchronously on the net. As soon as it is
clear which days and courses are affected, please find out in good time how to register for the attendance events in the courses concerned.

- I would like to repeat a request from last time: We need your help in introducing an online self-assessment for prospective students in MW (OSA 3.0)! In order to set this up well, we need to find out what challenges students have to overcome from your point of view in order to succeed in their mechanical engineering studies. For this purpose, we have a small survey (approx. 10min) in which we ask you to participate at https://tud.link/1n4o - that would be a great help!

- Of course, the current digital-only world still applies in the examination office. Therefore, as always, the urgent request: Send applications etc. only by e-mail!

- The statement - everything digital - naturally also applies to the submission of theses and supporting documents. Here we have already returned to the concept we had in the hard lockdown in spring: You upload your thesis to OwnCloud at https://cloudstore.zih.tu-dresden.de/ (access with your ZIH login) and send the link to the thesis to your examiner in the examination office (for theses!) and the supervising university lecturer by the deadline.

- The Mechanical Engineering Learning Room remains active during the exam period at https://matrix.tu-dresden.de/#/room/#Maschinenwesen-Lernraum-MW:tu-dresden.de - an additional support we offer at this point for this complicated exam period.

And then I have another piece of information that is still very incomplete. I am often asked whether the non-credit semester will also be back. Now it is the case that the state parliament has decided to extend the standard periods of study by 2 semesters. This is good because it means that the BaFöG can continue (for those who were still within the standard period of study in SoSem20) and the BaFöG office is already acting accordingly. However, many aspects of implementation are still unclear. They're being clarified right now - that should be next week - and then I'll be able to say more about how all these things can be reconciled. So please be patient for a few more days and don't ask the Examination Office or the Imma Office ;-).

And finally, as always, the advice: if you have questions and concerns about the whole Corona situation with regard to teaching, please send them to kummerkasten-mw@tu-dresden.de, using your TUD mail address without exception (as opposed to the normal use of the Kummerkasten).

So much for today, I wish you a good start into the exam period!

Stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach