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Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

this is already the 40th of these infomails - which shows how long we have had to live with "teaching without a lecture hall". It's a crazy situation, the end of which is very difficult to foresee at the moment. Currently, the second examination period is already underway, which is essentially digital, and so far most of it looks pretty good. From my own experience, I can say that even large exams work well. We wrote MAT1 on Monday with over 500 participants and the technical problems were actually all solved in a few minutes.

However, there are also things about digital examinations that are not good at all and which I would like to address briefly here. One major criticism of digital exams has always been the **problem of exam fraud**. At the moment, it looks quite good across the board, which is actually what I expected. But there are also a few who think that the situation of a digital exam without proctoring can be wonderfully used to cheat. That is as stupid as it is unsound. Unsound, because it bears the danger that - regardless of the Corona situation - many colleagues may no longer be willing to offer digital examinations - a loss for everyone! And stupid, because it does attract attention. An example that reached me today: someone quickly turned on Google in a digital exam (which is basically not allowed!) and then simply copied and pasted a sentence from a scientific journal for a free text field. Who thinks that something like that won't be noticed... And if it is noticed? Well, then it's up to the examiner whether to punish it (i.e. 5 for cheating - it can't be returned), or leave it at a warning. And since it is also an offence against the basic rules of good scientific practice, which you all accepted with your enrolment, one would definitely have to check whether this can and must have further-reaching consequences. So leave the nonsense alone - no one needs the trouble it causes!

And another case reported to me is an unspeakable disregard for the work that the teachers have put into this semester and the last: Someone goes into an exam, is poorly prepared and at the end of the exam declares "Well, I was just poorly prepared, I'll just give the grade back...". That is disrespectful and has no place here in mechanical engineering!

Another point about online exams: There is always a question about the tools used in **oral online exams**. It's true - our data protection officer has a penchant for BigBlueButton. O.K.. ... That's a recommendation and anyone who has ever used BBB

Postal address (letters)

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Visitor address

Helmholtzstraße 5
Zeuner Building, I.
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Side entrance
George-Bähr-Str. 3c,
marked parking spaces
in the courtyard. Parking
spaces in the inner
courtyard

Internet

<http://tu-dresden.de/mw>
No access for
electronically signed and
encrypted documents.



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knows: functionality is often disastrous. In addition, many lecturers, if they are employed at non-university institutes, do not have access to BBB at all. In other words - it is up to the examiner to decide which tool to use. I have called for the preferred use of BBB, as far as it is technically feasible. If it works differently in some places, so be it and if you don't want to do that, you have to cancel the exam and wait until there are other options (face-to-face exams) again. But let's be honest: Who in the US or wherever is interested in what answers are given in exams ;-)?

Otherwise, at the moment there is only the usual standard info that is important for the whole operation - a good sign, because if there is no really big news, it means - the story is on...:

- Of course, in the purely digital world, the examination office also operates digitally. Therefore, as always, we urgently request that you **only** send **applications etc. 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.
- As already mentioned, the **Mechanical Engineering Learning Room** remains active during the exam period at <https://matrix.tu-dresden.de/#/room/#Maschinenwesen-Lernraum-MW:tu-dresden.de> - a support we offer for this complicated exam period as a possibility to exchange about topics. Make sure you take advantage of this, because exchanging views on problematic topics is the best way to learn something quickly and effectively!

On the topic of **BaFöG extension**, there is unfortunately still nothing new beyond the things I communicated last week; we are still waiting for information on how the topic of **not crediting the semester** is to be handled in the current legal situation.

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 now, stay tuned, take advantage of the opportunities we offer during this difficult time and stay clean during exams!

Stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach