Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

two (digital) weeks of summer semester are already behind us. For the time being, we remain hopeful that after Whitsun it will finally be possible to switch to the long-planned hybrid operation and that we will be able to experience a little "university" again.

Currently, the most important news is that the catalogues for the catalogue modules were approved by the Study Committee on Wednesday and are now available in their final form on the web (https://tud.link/ls74).

In the same vein, there have also been some adjustments to modules that have become necessary as part of the PO2019 changeover, and the resulting changes to the course timetables can be found at https://tud.link/8z1z, as can the special timetables in the postgraduate degree (PO2014).

A question that is often asked concerns the final transition to the PO2019: Yes - we wanted to be ready last summer, but Corona has postponed many things. Due to the still ongoing exams according to the old PO, these processes are still running. Some transfers could be done already, in other places we have to wait until fall - i.e. until the last 2012 exams are finished. The process is running, it remains - no one has to worry - but the changes in the boundary conditions have made some things more difficult, which we would also have wished quite differently.

Finally, two points that are also important: First, the question of outstanding exam grades - we are in the process of asking the lecturers accordingly, but I ask everyone to understand that not all processes (and at no point) are running as smoothly at the moment as we are used to. The overload in the chairs has taken on proportions that are downright unbelievable. And events like the one last Monday, where the university forced us into a backwards roll in terms of teaching in the summer semester without justification, only make things worse - the change between face-to-face, hybrid and digital teaching seems manageable from the outside in terms of organisational effort, but represents a dramatic organisational difference for the lecturers, and the change in formats has brought with it enormous additional burdens that have to be managed somehow.

Dresden, 23. April 2021
Therefore, an urgent request to all: We make every effort, even under changing conditions and constraints, to make your studies as good as possible. To this end, the lecturers are very responsive to your needs and concerns in many places. In return, I ask you to be patient when something doesn't work right away. **We have all been running at the limit for months** - this applies to you as well as to the lecturers at the faculty - and we will only emerge successfully from this time if we deal with the situation with mutual understanding and respect!

And finally, as always, please note: If you have any questions or 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 healthy!

Stefan Odenbach