Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

we have now successfully completed the first week of hybrid studies and it has worked quite well for the most part. But - and this is very important to me - there are of course always situations in which something doesn't work out. On Tuesday, I was simply lucky that Ms. Breitkopf had warned me in advance of my MAT that there were problems with the auditorium sound in the AUDIMax. Without this warning, the stream on YouTube would not have worked. These are things for which we cannot do anything, nor can we change anything. We (both Ms. Breitkopf and I) had checked the technology in the AUDIMax on Friday. Everything worked. If anything is changed on Monday morning and nothing works anymore, it is not the fault of the lecturers in our faculty, but quite simply a lack of equipment at the university. Therefore, I ask (a) for your understanding when something doesn't work - we do our best, but at some points we are simply helpless – and (b) to be careful about blaming the lecturers when something doesn't work - you have to look very closely to know what a technical failure is ultimately due to...

What other important things are there?

- First, a few words about the **PO change**:
  - Very important - the **PO change takes place automatically** as soon as the last examination grades have been received (reminders for the missing ones have been sent). This means that you do not need to submit an application!
  - In order to generate the whole thing as smoothly as possible, you should first check yourself the transfer of your previous benefits to the new PO using the tables that have been available for a long time ([https://tud.link/jtx3](https://tud.link/jtx3)) and identify where you see problems.
  - You should then communicate these problems to the Examinations Office by email so that we can find solutions.
  - Please note that a reply cannot come within minutes! We currently have almost 4,500 students at the faculty and 3 staff members in the examinations office who process these mails - so I think it's easy to imagine the volume of mails and the overload we are currently facing.
In this context, it is also important that you consider now whether and which grades you want to return. You cannot wait until enrolment time to do this, otherwise there will be serious problems with the PO change.

Please also note that there are **no more examinations according to the old regulations**!

The whole process should be completed by the time you register for the exams in the winter semester - i.e. around the turn of the year.

- One more point about the hybrid events in attendance: as already mentioned, the prerequisite for participation in attendance events is the so-called 3G status. I.e. you must be vaccinated, recovered from Covid-19 or freshly tested! This is your responsibility to make sure you meet the **3G rules**, and there will definitely be random checks! In addition, the university has posted a statement in an Opal course at [https://tud.link/9npa](https://tud.link/9npa) confirming that you have taken note of the rules and will abide by them. The request is that you all confirm this briefly....

Apart from that, a few more pieces of information that are also important:

- As already announced, we will again offer **face-to-face counselling in the Examinations Office**. This is currently only possible to a very limited extent. Therefore, the following procedure applies:
  - If you have a problem that you would like to discuss in person with the Examinations Office in the coming week, please send an **e-mail with a detailed explanation of your problem** to praesenzberatung.mw@tu-dresden.de by Thursday evening of the previous week (by 17:00 at the latest).
  - On Friday, you will receive an e-mail in which you will be assigned an **appointment on the following Tuesday afternoon**, if this can be arranged.
  - The face-to-face counselling can only happen on this exact date.
  - It is clear that 3G status is required for face-to-face counselling and masks are compulsory.
  - Please be sure to limit requests for face-to-face counselling to problems that are guaranteed not to be solved by mail! There are very few appointment slots and we have to make a selection if there are too many requests! And this will initially be on a first-come, first-served basis...
  - The start of the face-to-face consultations will be from 02.11.2021 - i.e. in week 44!
The examination office will therefore continue to operate digitally to a large extent. Therefore, as always, we urgently request that you only send applications etc. by e-mail at the moment!

Finally, two points:

- I have been asked to use the variant from the "Mechanical Engineering without Lecture Hall" course "Dear Maschinenwesen" instead of "Dear Students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering" in these emails. Now my question to you - how should we do it? Just tick https://bit.ly/Maschinenwesen and then we can implement it as desired next week.

- And finally - as is often the case - a note: 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). With the start of the lecture period, I will be able to manage the mailbox more closely again.

So much for today,
stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach