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Technology



Dresden, 17. Dezember 2021

Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

this will be the last of these Friday evening mails this year - unless something very unusual happens. We have had an extremely difficult year, everyone looks completely overworked and there is still no real hope that everything will be better in 2022. At the same time, however, it has been a year in which our faculty has done an outstanding job in dealing with the pandemic and overcoming the associated problems. 21 months of university under exceptional conditions, that's more than unusual, and we've managed to get through three fully digital and now 2/3 of a hybrid Corona semester with virtually no cancellations or restrictions and including all exams. Personally, I think that's pretty cool. And that brings me to the only content-related point for today's mail - exams. There are a lot of rumours circulating and I think it is important to summarise everything and show what will really happen in the examination period in WiSem21. I admit that it wasn't easy for me either to get things in order and it took several phone calls with the Prorektorat of Education to clarify things, but now I have a status that can be communicated:

- The first, very important point in this context - the Senate decision of 8.12.21 states quite clearly that **there will no longer be any grade returns** in the form to which we have been accustomed from the last 3 semesters.
- This means that from now on exams are a serious matter again, should be well prepared and must be approached seriously!
- This is actually nothing unusual for a university. This leaves the question of the form of the examination.
- For many, this is certainly important information: **If there is no new lockdown, it will be possible to test in presence!**
- And this brings us to the various forms of written examinations: As I said - classical presence examinations are possible. **If someone is unable to take such an examination** due to the infection situation, they can apply for compensation for disadvantages, and if this is approved by the examination board, the examiner will offer you an alternative examination. What this looks like is up to the person offering you the examination.

*Postal address (letters)*

TU Dresden, Faculty of  
Mechanical Engineering  
01062 Dresden

*Postal address (parcels etc.)*

TU Dresden, Faculty of  
Mechanical Engineering  
Helmholtzstraße 10, 01069 Dresden

*Visitor address*

Helmholtzstraße 5  
Zeuner Building, I.  
OG  
Room 214



*Access*

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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concept**  
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Wissenschaft  
und Kultur

- The alternative at the other end is what we have done in the last semesters: purely digital, usually with OpalExam. The essential innovation here is **mandatory video surveillance**.
- And the first thing to note about this is that it is not proctoring: It is not proctoring, because proctoring requires an AI that investigates suspicious movements and makes records if necessary.
- Records are clearly not allowed!
- If such an exam is due, you must give your **consent to the monitoring in advance in accordance with data protection law**. If you do not do so by a certain deadline, you will be offered the opportunity to write the exam digitally in presence.
- If you revoke this agreement during the exam, it will be considered as not written and will not be corrected.
- It is assumed that after almost 2 years, everyone has learned to participate in video conferences and the like without allowing too deep an insight into their private lives.
- How the cameras have to be set up - i.e. what has to be seen - is up to the inspector.
- If the **video connection breaks down, the exam is cancelled**. This means that you will be excluded from the exam - not that you have attempted to cheat - and you simply have to take the exam again at the next date. This also means that you are responsible for ensuring that the internet connection and technology function smoothly during the exam!

That was a lot of text, but an important topic and: The text has been agreed with the PB, so this is (except for my style of speaking) almost an official announcement on the topic ;-).

And finally, as always, please note: If you have questions or concerns about the entire Corona situation with regard to teaching, please send them to [kummerkasten-mw@tu-dresden.de](mailto:kummerkasten-mw@tu-dresden.de) and use your TUD email address without exception (in contrast to the normal use of the Kummerkasten). However, with one restriction: as of 21.12.21, I will also be off duty for the time being, the Kummerkasten will be closed and I will only really deal with mails again as of 10.01.22.

Since - as I said at the beginning - this is to be the last mail of this kind this year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy 4<sup>th</sup> Advent, later a blessed Christmas and finally a good transition into a hopefully better New Year. Stay healthy and try to recharge your batteries over the Christmas period - I think we all need it...

Stefan Odenbach