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Dresden, 26. August 2022

Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,


my last mail was quite some time ago and that shows that the university - and also our faculty - has normalized at least temporarily. The core exam period is behind us and meanwhile the first grades are trickling in, so there aren't too many detail problems.

But - there are a few things that we need to look at more as we get back to normal:

- After the somewhat unfamiliar structure during the pandemic, it is very important that you now get an **overview of how you are doing in your studies after the semesters with all the special regulations**: Have you been able to successfully complete all the exams that should have been taken? Have you postponed exams? Have any exams gone wrong and are there any deadlines to be met? Please check this very carefully; get an honest impression of your study status - and **if something seems to be wrong somewhere: get in touch with us!** The earlier we identify problems, the easier it is to take remedial action!
- And on the other hand, you should **make a plan for the coming semesters** based on the current status. And also there: first fill possible gaps and if the situation looks problematic: Let me know!!!
- This planning process also centrally includes the planning for **the specialized and research internship**. Be sure to start planning in good time - you have to find internships yourself, and it can take a while to find something suitable! And don't forget that for internships that do not take place at the faculty - e.g. internships in industry, abroad or at non-university research institutions - you need a supervising professor at our faculty. It is of no use to you if you do an internship somewhere and then go looking for a supervisor afterwards and find no one!
- Another point, which is also related to the return to face-to-face teaching, concerns the exercises. Here we are again massively dependent on **tutors for supervision**. (I can see this in my MAT class, where we urgently need more staff for the winter semester - if you would like to supervise MAT exercises, please send me an email!) The situation looks bleak everywhere and I would like to ask everyone to consider whether you would like to deepen your knowledge in a subject for one or two semesters and then also experience teaching "on the other side".

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Side entrance  
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marked parking spaces  
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spaces in the courtyard

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



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And with that, we are now fully looking ahead to the upcoming semester:

- We will publish the new **Opal lists** on Opal as usual shortly before the start of the lecture period.
- Also at this time the **lists for the catalog modules** will come. At this point I would like to ask you to check whether the events you want to attend for the catalogs are also on the lists, and if not, to apply for in good time.
- And then the question always comes up as to what the next semester will look like. If you look at the boundary conditions with the still existing Corona problem and the impending energy and heating crisis in winter, it's definitely a legitimate question. But there is no answer at the moment, because nobody knows what is really coming. So we plan a normal semester of attendance (enriched, of course, with all the nice, new teaching/learning settings we've developed in recent years) and then, if anything comes up - we react. In 2020, we were totally unprepared for this, and if something comes up now, we are prepared and can handle it.

Finally, a request that concerns more the future generations of students, but where we need your help: We are developing special courses for prospective students in which you can test whether mechanical engineering is really the right path. In doing so, one often encounters completely false expectations as far as studying is concerned. In order to get a better insight we need your experiences, which expectations were realistic or totally wrong. In the survey <https://umfragen.psych.tu-dresden.de/sozsci/studienervartungenMaschinenbau/> this is asked (should not cost more than 5min) and it would be great if we get a few thousand responses ;-).

So much for now, enjoy the time between exams and the new semester, recharge your batteries, and stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach