

Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

the email is arriving a little out of sequence this time – mainly because I spent last weekend trying to leave the stress of the semester behind and enjoy a bit of culture (real culture, without the big "TU" in the middle ☺).

But the email is coming nevertheless, because we have now reached the end of the semester. First of all, I would therefore like to wish everyone a truly

successful and enjoyable examination period.

Just score nothing but top grades – it makes life much more pleasant for everyone involved! ☺.

Apart from that, there is not much to report today (although I think the good wishes above alone are reason enough for an evening email). There is, however, one very personal request I would like to make. I have now been at TU Dresden for well over twenty years, and if I am completely honest, I have not really taken a proper vacation during all that time. Of course, it depends on how you define "vacation," but spending two or three hours every day dealing with work simply does not qualify as genuine time off. Unfortunately, that constant pace is beginning to catch up with me.

For that reason, I really need to take a proper break this year. From now until roughly the middle or end of September, I will therefore be largely offline. The key part of being "offline" is reducing my email traffic. So my request is simple: please **do not send me any emails** over the coming weeks. Please do not copy me on messages, and avoid any unnecessary correspondence involving me.

Whenever possible, please direct teaching-related matters within the Faculty to Ms. Herzog-Schaudick. Matters concerning teaching within my own institute should go to Dr. Lange. Everything else can almost certainly wait until I return.

Please also bear in mind that response times from Ms. Herzog-Schaudick may be somewhat longer than usual, as she will not only be dealing with her own email workload but also covering part of mine.

If something genuinely urgent comes up that absolutely requires my attention, please contact Ms. Türk. She will remain in touch with me during the coming weeks and will decide when it is important enough to pass something on.

inally, one completely different topic that concerns the Faculty as a whole.

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Over the weekend I noticed that the first students have already enrolled in Mechanical Engineering at TU Dresden. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to extend **a very warm welcome to all of you.**

Right now you are in the fortunate position of having your school exams behind you. Make the most of the weeks before the semester begins: enjoy some well-deserved peace and quiet after the stress of your final examinations, and use the time to recharge before embarking on the exciting years ahead with us.

I look forward to welcoming you in person at the freshman orientation at the beginning of October.

That is all for today.

I wish all of you a successful examination period, followed by the rest you deserve to recharge your batteries and return refreshed for the winter semester.

Yours

Stefan Odenbach