emergency operations for two weeks

Dear members of staff,

Dear students,

The emergency operations mode has already been in full swing for two weeks at our TU Dresden (TUD). Somehow, this time feels both infinitely long, but also unbelievably short due to the high levels of activity.

With outstanding commitment and effort, thousands of people at TUD have taken on the challenge of making the start of the semester possible within the shortest possible time by switching from classroom teaching to an online teaching platform. The 2020 summer semester will start next Monday, 6th April. I am extremely impressed and deeply grateful for the commitment and creativity, with which everyone here has banded together!

It is with great suspense that we are waiting to find out whether TUD’s technology and organisational processes will withstand this test of mettle. Institutions in Germany and all around the world share similar concerns. Our experts have pooled all their experience and expertise in order to develop optimum solutions with the limited resources available. We will certainly not know how we will fare until Monday, and we will once again devote all our energy and expertise to the issues that might arise. Yesterday, you received a Circular Mail from the Vice-Rectors on the topic.
Every day, we receive numerous enquiries as to when the emergency operations mode will be relaxed. This very much depends on the development of the situation in Germany. At present, there are no indications that this will happen very soon. Yet, I would like to assure you: We are already developing scenarios as to how we can gradually resume normal university operations. These scenarios will be implemented, should the federal and state governments issue new, less stringent regulations. At the same time, however, we are also preparing for the case that the emergency operations mode must stay in place even after 20th April due to the dynamic health situation in Germany.

In the following, I would like to offer further information on a number of topics.

- I would like to begin with words of gratitude: The Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism (SMWK) expresses its thanks - on behalf of the Saxon state government - towards the members of TUD and the DRESDEN-concept research alliance for their extensive personnel and material support, and has asked me to convey its thanks to all helpers.

- The SLUB has requested that I remind you of its numerous Online Services. These are constantly being updated and extended. Please keep yourself informed on the website of the SLUB.

- Our University Sports Centre has set up a wide range of Online Courses. Stay fit and stay healthy!

- For information on the working method of the Central University Administration, please refer to the Websites of Directorate 1-8. Here, the respective valid procedures are described.

- University-wide information about the Coronavirus can be found on the continually updated website.

- A comprehensive range of information on teaching and studying during the pandemic is also available on the website, which is also continually updated.

- I would like to repeat my request that members of staff and students, who test positive for the coronavirus, should not only report this to the public health authorities, but also inform us as a university by writing to: gesundheitsdienst@tu-dresden.de. This is done on a voluntary basis, but it helps a great deal to quickly inform people, who may have been infected, and thus slow down the overall spread of the virus. In addition, information about the spread of the coronavirus within our TUD family is an important prerequisite for decisions regarding university operations in the coming weeks.
Even with our hearts full of hope and anticipation, perhaps the weekend offers us a much needed break or time for more urgent work. I wish us all a lot of strength, strong nerves, attentiveness in dealing with ourselves and others, a clear head - despite many worries - and above all: stay healthy or get well soon!

Best regards,

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