

Ministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur Mecklenburg-
Vorpommern · D-19048 Schwerin

To all
Professors,
employees of the university administrations,
scientific and artistic staff and
lecturers
of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Schwerin, 25 March 2020

Dear professors,
dear colleagues of the university administration,
dear scientific and artistic staff,
dear lecturers

Throughout this recent period, we have all devoted our full energy to dealing with the challenging situation caused by the coronavirus. This included organizing work processes, proceeding pragmatically and under great time pressure, and developing alternative, sometimes new and creative ideas, especially for teaching. I would like to express my gratitude to you for your understanding and for your dedicated commitment.

I am well aware that the drastic disruptions, which have had to occur to contain Covid-19, present great challenges for each and every one of you, if in different ways. In addition to the significant limitation of, or rather the special challenge to, your research and teaching activities or your administrative work, a number of questions arise for you as employees, civil servants, lecturers etc. Some of you will certainly also have to reorganize your everyday life as parents.

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Depending on your legal relationship with your university or the state of Mecklenburg-Pomerania, some of you will also be faced with existential worries to varying degrees. We can see this from the numerous phone calls and e-mails that reach us. You will find answers to the most frequently asked questions on your university's websites and handouts, and also on the Ministry of Education's website, which is being updated continuously.

I would like to assure you that, in close cooperation with the universities' crisis management teams, the state government – and in particular the Ministry of Science – is working flat out to ensure that this crisis does not have any negative impact on your academic or professional career. In daily exchanges between my institution and the representatives of the universities - currently in the form of telephone and video conferences - we are working together to prevent any impending disadvantages for students and employees at our universities and to agree on a common approach.

It is a unique occurrence in the history of our federal state that it has become necessary to discontinue teaching and research activities in their current form and thus to restrict the administrative operations to this extent. What was everyday life only a few weeks ago is unfortunately not possible at the moment. In the meantime, however, thanks to your commitment, flexibility and creativity, it has been possible to maintain or restore the operations of the university administration in systemically relevant areas. Additionally, we see fast developments in digital form with regard to substitutes for a large number of areas of service and operation related to studies and teaching that have had to be suspended to avoid personal contact.

Rest assured that, together, we will do everything in our power to manage this difficult time for the university business in the best possible way.

Please keep well.

With best regards



Bettina Martin