

ELECTION PROGRAM OF THE JUSO UNIVERSITY GROUP TRIER FOR THE UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS 2020/21

**>> Lassen wir uns nicht schrecken durch die
Ungunst äußerer Umstände, haben wir für
alle Schwierigkeiten nur eine Antwort:
„Erst recht!“ <<**

„... we only have one answer for all difficulties: all the more!“

Clara Zetkin, German socialist-communist politician, peace activist and women's rights activist

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MORE FEMALE* PERSPECTIVES!

For gender diversity in research, teaching and committees.

The distribution of students at the beginning of their studies is equal. At the University of Trier, as many as 60% of students are female. But the higher you look on the academic pyramid, the more the picture changes: The proportion of women* in research is only 27.9% across Germany and is below the EU average of 32.8%.

Last year, the University of Trier was able to record 60% of doctorates awarded to women*. But in the past, the average was just over 40%. The difference is even more obvious when it comes to personnel: 40% of the university's staff are female academics and just 25% female professors. Additionally, a look at the university committees and the working world shows: Women* are still strongly underrepresented.

Therefore, we are committed to raising awareness of the issue and to improving the promotion and expansion of support and mentoring programs for women* at the university. We want to achieve this through stronger networking and promotion of the responsible committees on campus (Equal Opportunity Commission, Equal Opportunity Department and Women's* Department of the AStA).

Furthermore, we are also committed to improving the compatibility of studies, work and family. Much has already been achieved by abolishing compulsory attendance at most seminars. Now we need to implement the new regulations in a consistent and student-friendly manner. Additionally, the new legal situation on part-time courses of study (and on equal representation on university committees) must become reality step by step. We want to closely monitor these processes in the long term. Last but not least, we also want to work on the student body itself: We want to continue our contribution to a strong proportion of women* in the StuPa and AStA and strengthen the awareness structures in the AStA.

SEMESTER BEGIN 2020 CANCELLED!?

Catch up on orientation and networking despite Corona!

The start of the 2020 semester was chaotic. In spring, the pandemic caught everyone by surprise and the O-week was almost completely cancelled. The situation was not much better in winter either. Apart from the introductory events for the subjects and the AStA campus tours, there were not really any noteworthy offers for the students. Although the student counselling team (ZSB) had tried to find alternatives, the bottom line was that this was not enough. Planning began too late, too few resources were available and the approaches were too conservative. The announced digital market of opportunities (MdM) did not go beyond a collection of links on the more than confusing university website. The AStA must also be self-critical: The few but good offers for the students should have been advertised more and in general the public relations work for first-year students was rather poor.

The AStA must sit down with the university early in the new year and better concepts for all scenarios must be demanded and worked out. What the university can't or won't offer itself, the AStA must check and then work out itself. Concrete responsibilities are needed in the AStA for this.

We demand a (for the time being digital) buddy program. Such a program is necessary for a minimum of campus life and exchange during studies, in order to do justice to the often advertised „Trier feeling“.

Information stands and the MdM must be enabled by genuine digital alternatives. The possibilities of virtual „fairs“ with digital spaces for an adequate presentation of the offers exist.

The advanced semesters must have the opportunity to catch up their orientation week. They must be able to inform themselves for the rest of their studies and to socialise. Student representatives and university groups must be given the opportunity to advertise their offers and to reach new members.

Freshers' work has not been a priority for the AStA in recent years. Especially in times of the pandemic, this must change. We want to work on this together with the student representatives, the university and the ZSB. We see this as one of the main tasks of student representation.

Improve digital teaching during Corona...

and maintain advantages!

Quality of teaching: Events in which lecturers only upload slides or scripts are unacceptable and must not replace teaching.

Seminars in which participants turn on their camera are desirable. But it is not appropriate to suggest a „camera obligation“ (the same applies to attendance obligations) or to enforce it through the back door. Students without a camera or sufficient internet connection should not be disadvantaged. In addition, the fundamental right to inviolability of one's own home applies.

Workload: Some lecturers compensate for face-to-face teaching with a lot of exams and „homework“. These cannot be justified by digital teaching alone. In addition to the extra time burden, this leads to psychosocial stress. New and creative exams are to be welcomed; however, technical requirements and efforts must be taken into account here and classic exams must remain an option.

Work rhythm: Here, too, (psychosocial) stress has increased. Time slots must be adhered to and lectures must generally take place asynchronously. In addition, assignments should not be sent irregularly several times a week by email. In general, we reject the increase of school-like teaching at the university. Studies must leave room for self-determined learning and living.

Social conditions: Many students do not have sufficient software and hardware, internet connection nor adequate learning spaces. PC pools and learning rooms must therefore be made accessible with an elaborated hygiene concept.

We want to advocate for this with the responsible authorities. Even if the freedom of teaching gives lecturers a lot of flexibility, the university management and departments must exert pressure on lecturers. In order to raise awareness of these issues, the AStA's position paper on digital teaching must be completed and promoted. In addition, we want to inform students more about their rights and complaints offices in order to be able to tackle problems in a targeted way.

MORE PARTICIPATION AND TRANSPARENCY!

We take student participation seriously.

Wherever students are involved, e.g., in the AK Digital Teaching or of course in the Senate, the university benefits from this and the work can be very constructive. However, the existing structures often prevent this through a lack of transparency and co-determination. That is why we demand:

Senate motions must finally be made accessible online and invitations to senate meetings must be made public properly. It is not enough that only members of the committees find out when meetings are taking place and what draft resolutions there are, while the meeting itself is open to the public. As a result, students cannot adequately prepare for and contribute to meetings.

In addition, the meetings of the important senate commissions and the faculty councils must finally be made public. It is not appropriate that decisions on study and examination regulations are made behind closed doors and that student members are not able to exchange information and consult with their student body of a faculty.

The new version of the state university law makes it possible to elect a student vice-president. Therefore, we would like to introduce a corresponding motion in the Senate so that, in addition to the purely professorial perspective, a student perspective can finally enrich the university presidium. We would also like to pursue the establishment of a Student Digital Officer. There have already been good talks with the university management on this.

But we will also stay tuned for you on other issues at the national level! Even though the new university law has now been passed, it is still important to achieve equal representation in the senate in order to reduce the professorial majority and increase the student share from only 4 representatives. In the other bodies of the university and the Studiwerk, we want to continue to advocate for student majorities. As the largest status group at the university, students must also be represented accordingly.

SOLIDARITY SEMESTER!

Fair conditions for studying during the pandemic and afterwards!

For students, the pandemic is an enormous challenge. Despite digital teaching, studying during Corona is not comparable to a normal semester and should not be treated the same. The restrictions are diverse. From problems in teaching and digital infrastructure to social, financial and psychosocial hardship.

Political promises were made early on: No disadvantage for students during the pandemic! For us, this can only mean the following: The best possible conditions for those who can continue their studies despite the pandemic. But no disadvantages for those who cannot do so during the pandemic (for whatever reason). Keyword „CAN semester“.

This requires the following measures:

The maximum BAföG funding period must be increased for the entire duration of the pandemic. The wilful inaction of the Federal Education Minister Karliczek, who is responsible for this, is a scandal. It is therefore all the more welcome that the state government has regulated this at the instigation of the LAK. This must also be regulated for the winter. We want to campaign for this (as we did in the summer) via the LAK RLP with the state government, as well as in the nationwide alliance „Solidarity Semester“. In addition, we advocate for adequate financial aid for students in pandemic emergencies. In the long term, we are pursuing a fundamental reform of BAföG, which no longer functions properly in its current form.

Introduction of additional failed attempts: The university is responsible for this. While other universities in RLP have already implemented this, there have been formal reservations at the University of Trier so far. One of our motions was not accepted in the Senate. We want to tackle this again in the winter. For this, we need a strong and committed student voice in the senate.

Finally, we demand a general exemption from deadlines for exams, term papers and registration deadlines. Hardware and software must be subsidised for those affected and sufficient workstations must be made available at the university.