Dear Students, dear Colleagues, dear Staff Members,

We would like to inform you that there has been a new development in light of the current coronavirus situation. According to a press release from this afternoon, the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts of Baden-Württemberg (MWK) is planning to postpone the start of the new semester at all higher education institutions and universities in Baden-Württemberg until 20 April 2020. This is a preventive measure destined to avoid encounters and meetings of larger crowds in confined spaces.

At present, we have not yet received this decree from the MWK, but we expect it to be published either today or tomorrow. The University of Mannheim will also be affected, at least by a temporary suspension of classes. We currently intend to take the following measures, which we will specify further once we have received the official decree by the ministry.

**Teaching operations**

With the publication of the decree (of which we will receive separate notice), all teaching operations with student attendance at the University of Mannheim will be suspended until the end of 19 April. No lectures, seminars, tutorials, exercise courses or other classes with attendance will be held on campus until this date. Any (partial) examinations (exams, term papers) scheduled to take place until this date can still be taken as planned. Together with the teaching staff, we will take the next couple of days to establish how to further proceed until 19 April, especially which options we have to expand the existing digital teaching and learning offers. We will also discuss which special regulations can be put in place to ensure that all students have the possibility to complete necessary coursework and examinations before the end of the semester. Please understand that we cannot answer any individual questions on this matter until then.

**University Library**

It is still possible to borrow library items and to use the textbook collection. The departmental libraries will also remain open for visitors until further notice. In order to be able to follow the recommendations on maintaining the required level of distance in the libraries, there might be fewer desks that can be used for studying. However, with the suspension of classes, students will have the possibility to meet with smaller study groups in some of the seminar rooms and lecture halls that will then be vacant.

**Research and administration**

Research operations and other activities at the universities will carry on as usual. Please take note of the recommendation of the Ministry of Science to keep meetings, conferences and other appointments to the bare minimum that is deemed absolutely necessary. This also applies to business trips. Business trips to risk areas as defined by the Robert Koch Institute are prohibited.

In the case of employees who are looking after people at home belonging to one of the risk groups (older people, people with pre-existing illnesses), superiors should assess whether it is possible for them to temporarily work in home office upon reasoned request.

**Sports**

All university sports courses are suspended until 20 April.
Mensa

The Mensa will remain open until further notice. If necessary due to a decrease in the number of guests, the Studierendenwerk will reduce the extent of offers.

We will continue to give you frequent updates on the situation. Please also stay informed via our website, which is constantly updated: www.uni-mannheim.de/corona

Sincerely,

Sgd. Barbara Windscheid

Executive Vice President

Prof. Dr. Thomas Puhl

President