



Employee Reception

Opening speech by President Angela Ittel

19.09.2023

Dear colleagues,

Today is the second time we come together in this new format. I am looking forward to the exchange and conversations with each and every one of you.

Over the past two years, I have had the opportunity to learn a lot about TU Braunschweig. From an external perspective, I perceived the university as an institution with excellent research and dedicated teaching. Since my time here, I have come to realize that the passion and strong identification of our employees with the university play a central role. This is precisely what makes this university a special place for work, teaching, and learning – a place of knowledge and the collaborative development of ideas.

For me, it is a great honor and joy to stand here as part of the TU Braunschweig community and engage in dialogue with all of you. At TU Braunschweig, approximately 3,800 employees contribute, and it would be impossible – at least very resource-intensive – to organize a collective event for everyone. Nevertheless, we hope to come together each year in a unique assembly, providing us the opportunity to get to know colleagues and engage in conversations that may not be possible in our everyday work. For the employee reception, we randomly select about 100 participants each year, representing various internal groups. The diversity of today's participants reflects the richness of our university in many ways.

At TU Braunschweig, we frequently emphasize – especially in the context of the university development initiative – the importance of interdisciplinary exchange to position our university successfully for the future. Today, we – you – have an excellent opportunity for that. Today, we are even taking it a step further: The composition of our participants allows us to facilitate cross-functional exchange among employees from various central and decentralized units.

This point is particularly important to me today: The cohesion and development of our university are not only crucial concerning research and teaching. The administrative and governance structures of our university – as well as its contemporary work processes and procedures – are of central importance to us and represent one of the performance dimensions in our university development concept.

Therefore, starting from spring 2023, we will extend the development discussions to include the governance units of TU Braunschweig to ensure the sustainability of TU Braunschweig in this central field.

The past few weeks at TU Braunschweig have been marked, among other things, by the process of brand update. Last week, some of us participated in the so-called University Brand Sprint, contributing to formulating the core of our brand – the self-understanding of TU Braunschweig – collectively. The University Brand Sprint consisted of four workshops that ran very well and were characterized by active participation and engagement from the participants. So far, we have received a lot of positive feedback from internal and external stakeholders who were involved in the workshops. We look forward to soon presenting the initial results to the Executive Board and later to the Senate and discussing them with you in various formats.

Another topic that will accompany us in the coming weeks and months is the process towards becoming a foundation university. In the Executive Board, we have deliberated extensively and have come to the conclusion that we would like to recommend to our university or, specifically, to the Senate, to embark on the path towards a foundation university. The final decision on whether we want to take this path lies with the Senate. Until a Senate decision is reached, we see it as our responsibility to create opportunities and formats for all university members to discuss together the opportunities and risks of a foundation university. We warmly invite you to actively participate in the Foundation University Information Week from January 15 to 19. In the coming weeks, a website on the topic will also be launched, where you will find all essential information and answers to your questions.

However, if you already have concerns or questions at this stage, feel free to reach out to our Office of University Development at any time! Our colleagues are ready to answer your questions. At this point, it is important for me to emphasize: The decision on whether to enter into negotiations with the state for a foundation university lies with the Senate. Before this decision is made, there will be extensive deliberations and discussions. Negotiations with the state will only commence if we are overwhelmingly convinced that this is the right decision for our university.

You can see: a lot is happening at TU Braunschweig. We are in motion, and that is an important prerequisite for our future successes. However, being continuously in motion can also become tiring. You and your colleagues do great work every day to ensure that we drive our development forward. Today, I want to take the opportunity to express my sincere thanks to you, both for your continuous support and your critiques. Because: We grow through criticism as university leadership and as a university. I ask you to convey my thanks to your departments and units today.

In active and eventful phases, it is also crucial to take time for togetherness, to focus on the "we." Let's enjoy today's celebration together and create new memories!