ETH

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Lecturers' Conference (KdL): Activity report 2022/23

Mirko Meboldt appointed new KdL President

During their General Conference, ETH Zurich lecturers voted in Prof. Dr. Mirko Meboldt to become the new President of the Lecturers' Conference (KdL). He took over the position from Prof. Dr. Ulrike Lohmann in early August 2022. As KdL Vice President, Dr. Alexander Caspar, Senior Scientist in the Department of Mathematics, has been confirmed for another term of office.

Results from existing working groups

Diversity and inclusion in teaching and learning

KdL established a group of six professors and senior scientists from five departments to promote diversity and inclusion in teaching at ETH based on feedback from student surveys. The group's first result was the development of the ABC-Model with three categories (Accessibility, Belonging, and Consideration) and examples/suggestions for implementation. The second result was the recognition that ETH lacks systematic and continuous data collection and evaluation of migration background, disability, and socio-economic background, which needs to be addressed to improve diversity and inclusion at ETH.

[Additional Information](#)

Good scientific practice during academic studies

The Ethics and Scientific Integrity course for doctoral students has been established and the KdL is helping to spread the word to offer additional ethics courses specifically for doctoral students from the different departments.

New projects / working groups

The following working groups were established in 2022/23:

Concept Pilot Peer Feedback on Teaching

The idea is to strengthen the collegial exchange on teaching, also outside of special programs such as "Teaching@ETH". This should promote inspiration for the design of teaching. One way of doing this is to enable mutual teaching visits and to establish an "open door" culture.

[Additional Information](#)
Evaluation of the Course Evaluation

The focus of the teaching evaluation process should be on providing feedback to lecturers, monitoring the quality of education, identifying problems and outstanding examples of teaching, and creating a track record for young lecturers. There is also a need to simplify administrative processes to increase the response rate and credibility of the evaluation, as well as to increase its effectiveness and validity. The aim is to improve understanding of the evaluation process among various target groups and to identify and clarify the boundaries and interfaces of different feedback processes and instruments within and outside the evaluation process.

Project based Learning

While the importance of project-based learning is increasing, the infrastructure and resources to support

it are not being built up accordingly. This leads to the difficult situation that new active learning formats and project-based teaching offerings can't be established without difficult investments by individual lecturers. The aim is to highlight the importance of project-based learning through a needs analysis and to formulate requirements. This will be an important first step in building the right infrastructure and resources to support lecturers in new teaching formats related to project-based learning.

Guests

The following guests attended plenary KdL meetings:

- Dr. Romila Storjohann, Barrier-Free ETHZ, Keynote on "Barrier-free at ETH Zurich"

- Dr. Dieter Wüest, Projektleiter im Stab Rektor, Presentation of the Project "PAKETH"

- Dr. Dittmann Nora & Dr. Benno Volk, LET, Presentation of the Peer Feedback Pilot Project

- Dr. Hildbrand Studer E. & Hüttle St., VPPL, Keynote & Discussion on "Future of Work"

- Dr. Julia Kehl, LET, Kite Award 2024

Consultations

In the year of this report the KdL, after the respective consultation process, stated its position on the following (in German):

- Strategie Entwicklung Studierenden- und Doktorierendenzahlen: interne Anhörung

- Reglement für die Professors of Practice an der ETH Zürich

- Nennung möglicher Feedback-Leadership-Partner:innen

- Richtlinien über die Anstellung von Professorinnen und Professoren der ETH Zürich über das ordentliche Pensionsalter hinaus: interne Vernehmlassung

- Vernehmlassung zur Stipendienverordnung der ETH Zürich

The respective position statements may be viewed on the KdL website (www.kdl.ethz.ch), together with further information on the KdL, a list of its members, and meeting dates.