

Students of the Institute for Arts and Media  
University of Potsdam  
Am Neuen Palais 10-12  
14469 Potsdam

Ministry of Science, Research and Culture  
Dr Manja Schüle  
Dortustraße 36  
14467 Potsdam

Dear Minister Dr Manja Schüle,

The students of the Institute of Arts and Media are writing to you to ask you to inform us about and comment on the following process, which is massively jeopardising the future of all humanities disciplines at the University of Potsdam.

The Chair of Literary Studies at the IKM has been held by Prof Dr Johannes Ungelenk as a junior professor for the past six years. He is an integral part of several degree programs at the Institute. From the Bachelor's degree program in Cultural Studies, to the Master's degree program in General and Comparative Literature and Art Studies, to all related philologies, his teaching and research takes place.

Normally, after the six-year junior professorship and a series of extensive examinations, an appointment to a full professorship is made. Prof Dr Johannes Ungelenk has passed these examinations and all the review committees have given their recommendation. Only the presidential management of the Faculty of Philosophy rejected the appointment of Prof Dr Johannes Ungelenk to the Chair of Literature.

This personnel decision and the resulting far-reaching, imminent restriction of the IKM's structure appalled all members of the institute and is now also attracting international attention and causing outrage.

The degree programs of many students, from bachelor's to doctoral students, are threatened if the Chair of Literary Studies is abandoned. It is to be feared that this will only be the beginning of many measures to restrict the entire humanities and their activities at the University of Potsdam. The suspicion arises that this is a political decision - against the chair, the institute and thus against the humanities as such. A restructuring measure through the back door and the abuse of the central

tenure commission on the backs of committed young academics who came to Brandenburg in the first place because of the tenure track program.

At the University of Potsdam, the evaluation of lecturers seems to be more concerned with financial interests, such as the acquisition of third-party funded projects, and not towards subject expertise and academic research and teaching.

The President shows no willingness to cooperate or even engage in dialogue. The students of the IKM are therefore activating all internal and external possibilities to retain the Chair of Literature as held by Prof Dr Johannes Ungelenk. Among other things, around 200 signatures have already been collected from members of the institute who are in favour of this.

We ask for your support in advocating for the preservation of the Chair of Literature at the IKM, especially in the form of the appointment of Prof Dr Johannes Ungelenk. Especially with the regard to the upcoming reform and adoption of the Higher Education Act and the upcoming state elections in Brandenburg, your action is necessary.

The students of the IKM are always ready to talk to you to develop and implement joint options for action. Now it is also up to you to put a stop to these disastrous and nontransparent structures of the President that are taking place before your eyes at the University of Potsdam.

Yours sincerely

The students of the Institute for Arts and Media