



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Lecturers' Conference (KdL)

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Lecturers' Conference (KdL): Activity report 2020/2021

At the beginning of academic year 2020/2021, previous Vice President Ulrike Lohmann succeeded Edoardo Mazza as KdL President and Alexander Caspar became KdL Vice President. KdL Committee members Nicolas Gruber, Hansruedi Maurer, Juraj Hromkovic, Bill Taylor and Rector Sarah Springman remained in place.

Nomination of the new Rector (to assume office in January 2022)

In early 2020 KdL began the process of nominating Sarah Springman's successor. Three candidates were proposed by the Professors' Conference: Prof. Günther Dissertori (D-PHYS), Prof. Manu Kapur (D-GESS) and Prof. Ralph Müller (D-HEST). After consulting with the ETH President, first the committee and then the plenary assembly (including a VSETH representative) invited the candidates for discussions. The plenary assembly decided to propose all three Professors' Conference candidates for election. Because the COVID-19 pandemic made a physical event impossible, a postal vote by professors was organised. With 233 of the 439 votes received (voter participation 65.7%), Günther Dissertori won an absolute majority in the first ballot and was nominated as the new Rector. The ETH President will now request the ETH Board to confirm the nomination. We take this opportunity to wish Günther Dissertori much success in his role as the new ETH Rector. We cordially thank all three candidates for their readiness to assume the extremely challenging and demanding office of Rector for the good of ETH, and for the immense efforts they exerted in the candidacy process. We appreciate this very much.

KITE Award 2020

Also due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony planned for April 2020 to present the finalists and announce the winner of the KITE Award 2020 was postponed until September. The on-site September event could only be held with a strictly limited number of guests, but it was livestreamed for a wider audience. The planned poster session for presentation of all 34 submitted projects had to be changed to an online format.

The winner of the KITE Award 2020 was the D-USYS course "Environmental Problem Solving". We again congratulate the winning team composed of Christian Pohl, Urs Brändle Pius Krütli, Marlene Mader and Bin Bin Pearce most warmly, and also the representatives of the other three project finalist groups.

The call for the KITE Award 2022 was issued this Spring Semester. Due to our current special circumstances the 2022 award will focus on teaching formats developed during the COVID-19 pandemic for the transition to online teaching. Projects may be submitted via the respective Department Conference until the end of May 2021. The corresponding announcement will follow.

KdL contact person

The last two activity reports mentioned the establishment of a KdL contact person for members of the teaching cadre. A pilot phase began in summer 2019 during which Prof. Gudela Grote kindly offered to perform the function of contact person. Because only a minimal number of queries were recorded, KdL and Prof. Grote decided to extend the pilot phase to the end of 2021. To increase visibility, a website was set up ([KdL contact person – Services & Resources | ETH Zurich](#)) and linked with the overview page of ETH contact and guidance locations. A decision about continuing the service will be taken in the final quarter of 2021.

Guests

The following guests attended plenary meetings of KdL:

- Dr Gerd Kortemeyer, Director of LET, and Dr Dieter Wüest, Head of AkD (implementation report from the Rectorate regarding emergency teaching operations)
- Dr Adina Rom, Executive Director of ETH4D (introduction of the “ETH for Development” initiative)
- Dr Julia Dannath-Schuh, new Vice President for Personnel Development and Leadership (introduction to the group)

Discussion with the EPFL Conférence du corps enseignants (CCL)

An online meeting with CCL took place in February 2021 where findings from the changes to teaching and examinations brought about by COVID-19 were discussed. The parties agreed to stay in contact, and the next meeting will take place later in the year.

Consultations

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

- Revision of the Ordinance on Doctoral Studies
- Directive on the appointment of doctoral students
- The scientific functions of postdocs and Senior Assistants
- New regulations for handling student data (in progress)
- Revision of the directive on continuous performance assessment (in progress)
- Revision of the ordinance on continuing education and the organisational regulations for continuing education (in progress)

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

Zurich, April 2021