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## Statement against the right-wing - For equality, diversity and academic freedom at the TUHH

On behalf of the student body, the TUHH Student Parliament takes a firm stance against all right-wing and extreme right-wing ideas and the policies associated with them. This not only attacks our values of openness, diversity and solidarity, but also has a direct negative impact on our lives as students. The current election campaign of right-wing parties once again makes it clear that their policies represent a hostile attitude towards academia, restrict academic freedoms, curtail students' rights and jeopardize our access to high-quality and future-oriented studies.

### **Climate change and science denial**

A central theme of right-wing and far-right parties is the denial of man-made climate change. They claim that the human influence on the climate is scientifically unclear and reject any climate protection measures. For example, they are calling for a withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement and reject investments in renewable energies. This is in direct contradiction to scientific findings and the principles of sustainable research as advocated at our university. Particularly in view of our university's self-imposed motto "Engineering to face climate change", such a policy is unacceptable.

### **Internationality**

In addition, right-wing parties are in favor of tuition fees for international students, which would make access to higher education even more difficult and reduce international exchange at universities. As we currently have a high proportion of international students (28 %) and the university aims to further internationalize, this would be a major cut. In addition, many right-wing parties reject the EU as a union and are in favor of leaving, which would make international exchange and cooperation with other universities, such as through research collaborations or semesters abroad, more difficult.

### **Attack on academic freedom and higher education**

Parties on the right-wing spectrum are displaying an alarming hostility towards science, for example by calling for the "depoliticization" of research institutions such as the Max Planck and Fraunhofer Societies, which would entail the withdrawal of substantial funding. This attitude undermines academic freedom and endangers future-oriented, evidence-based science.

In addition, right-wing and far-right parties are calling for a move away from proven, modern education systems. For example, one party is calling for the abolition of the Bologna Process, i.e. the reintroduction of diploma and master's degree courses as a consequence. This would not only make international comparability and student mobility more difficult, but would also complicate access to the job market. Furthermore, the party rejects accreditation procedures and modularization, which would lead to a step backwards in quality assurance and study organization.

### **Against discrimination and for an inclusive academic environment**

Right-wing and far-right parties are pursuing a backward-looking social policy that calls equality and diversity into question. Their attacks on the rights of trans\* and non-binary people are particularly alarming. Election manifestos, for example, speak of a so-called “trans cult” and call for a complete reversal of the Self-Determination Act. This is a direct attack on the rights and dignity of many people at our university.

They also call for gender to be viewed exclusively from a biological perspective, contrary to current scientific knowledge, and oppose any measures to promote gender diversity. The abolition of gender equality officers at universities, as is being called for, would reinforce structural disadvantages and weaken the protection of marginalized groups. This would be a massive step backwards in the promotion of equal opportunities and diversity in the academic environment. Such a policy creates a climate of fear and exclusion for those affected and contradicts the values of an open and inclusive society.

### **Solidarity instead of division**

We will not tolerate policies that exclude people, deny science and restrict academic freedom. As a student parliament, we stand for a democratic, open and social society. We demand a higher education policy that makes education accessible to all, recognizes scientific knowledge and protects social diversity.

We therefore call on all students to make an informed choice in the interests of the student body and free science. Because our future must not be further endangered by right-wing ideologies.

We are committed to a free, fair and inclusive education system!