

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE AND COMPLEXITY

Dear Sir/Madam,

the new year begins with exciting developments in the German university landscape – including our university. On January 29, the Imboden Commission published its report on the Excellence Initiative. All in all, it came to a decidedly positive assessment of the Initiative's achievements.

The Commission reasoned that the follow-up program should focus even more on strengthening top-level research in Germany and improving the international competitiveness of German universities. It proposed two new funding lines (Excellence Clusters II and Excellence Bonus), and the two-year extension of all current Excellence Initiative projects until the end of 2019, which would allow for the further development of these projects. At the meeting of the Joint Science Conference (GWK) on April 22, 2016, higher education policy makers at the national and state levels will come together to draw up a new agreement on the future of the Excellence Initiative. This draft will then be presented to the heads of the national and state governments for approval in June of this year.

Sincerely



Univ.-Prof. Dr. Axel Freimuth
Rector of the University of Cologne



Excellence Initiative reloaded – perspectives for top-level research

The possible continuation of the Excellence Initiative was an important topic at the UoC already in December of last year. On December 14, the university hosted the event "Excellence Initiative Reloaded – Perspektiven für die Spitzenforschung." Professor Margret Wintermantel, the president of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), addressed the importance of the Excellence Initiative for internationalization in her speech. Afterwards, renowned scholars and politicians engaged in lively discussion.

Faculty of Medicine successfully evaluated

The regular evaluation of all Faculties is an integral part of the UoC's Institutional Strategy. On 14 and 15 January 2016, fourteen international experts evaluated the Faculty of Medicine. Besides the assessment of the Faculty's past achievements, its plans for future development were an important issue.

We would like to thank all those involved in the evaluation from the Faculty of Medicine and the university administration for their excellent preparation and support.

The Institutional Strategy and the Albertus Magnus Graduate Center will be evaluated next.

From right to left: Professors Werner Reinartz (UoC), Hernan Bruno (UoC), Erik Hölzl (UoC), Franziska Völckner (UoC), Jörn Grahl (UoC), Marc Fischer (UoC), Puneet Manchanda (Michigan), Anja Lambrecht (London), Oliver Hinz (Darmstadt), Thorsten Wiesel (Münster), Esther Kang (UoC)

4th symposium of the UoC Forum "Value Creation in a Changing Customer and Media Environment"

The fourth Cologne symposium of the UoC Forum "Value Creation in a Changing Customer and Media Environment" took place on January 22, 2016 at the University of Cologne. German and international scholars presented their current research projects.

Over fifty participants discussed the development of communication technologies and the digitization of economic and social processes.



DATES

- >> April 13, 2016 – Meeting of the Extended Steering Committee and the University Conference
- >> May 23, 2016 – UoC Zukunftspreis awarding ceremony
- >> November 3-4, 2016 – Meeting of the external academic advisory board

EXCELLENT



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zu Köln