

President

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To the students
of the University of Passau

by internal mail

From:	Thomas Werrlein
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New framework contract with VG Wort in accordance with §52a of the German Copyright Act

Dear students and members of the University,

I should like to inform you of the current state of affairs concerning the framework contract on the use of works as per §52a of the German Copyright Act (Urheberrechtsgesetz; UrhG), negotiated by federal and state representatives and the VG Wort collecting agency. When this framework contract comes into effect on 1 January 2017, those making excerpts from copyrighted works available to others will have to record the use of each work, notify VG Wort, and the University will have to pay for use of the excerpts.

The University Executive will consult with the other Bavarian universities before deciding in the coming weeks whether the University of Passau enters into this framework contract.

In a recent letter, the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) informed us of the consequences, should the University elect not to become party to this contract: Universities that do not enter into this contract may, until 31 December 2016, lawfully upload all material relevant for the current winter semester into their virtual learning environments (Stud.IP, ILIAS etc.) to ensure their students have the literature they need to go about their studies; this analogously applies to any copied or printed handouts.

Having not entered into the framework contract, we would then have to remove all copyrighted material from our virtual learning environments on or before 1 January 2017. Consequently, the most sensible way forward would appear to be to complete uploading all teaching materials for the entire winter semester into the virtual learning environments as soon as possible and to inform you, our students, that you should download and save a copy of the literature before the end of December 2016 to ensure you can complete the current winter semester 2016-17 without any detriment.

I will keep you informed of all further developments related to this problem.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carola Jungwirth'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Professor Carola Jungwirth