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- Vorstand -**

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Datum: 16. Nov. 2022



Supposed Negotiations: Keep the Semester Ticket Price Reasonable

In light of today's city council meeting, we would like to comment on the negotiations with EVAG regarding our semester ticket. Since the current contract is expiring, a solution for the coming semesters is currently being sought. Unfortunately, the supposed negotiations are turning out to be more than difficult. No concession on the part of EVAG have been made available, and our wishes and additional demands have not been further addressed.

We are aware that the current situation is a difficult one and that EVAG - like other companies - is struggling with rising costs. However, we would like to emphasize at this point, that we as students, still paid the full fee during the pandemic and the associated online semesters, which meant that the income from the semester ticket has been a reliable and constant income for EVAG in recent semesters, while many other customers have fallen away. Due to the current rising costs of living, the financial worries of students are constantly growing. In addition, the current situation at the University of Erfurt is more than critical. Here, too, shortened opening hours of the library and the sudden move to online teaching are leading not only to serious cuts in the ability to study, but also to an additional financial burden on students, since heating costs, for example, are being shifted to the private sphere. Many students are already at the breaking point.

Therefore, we feel it is an impertinence to now increase the semester ticket fee by more than 10% and to reduce the initially offered three options to only one. Having one option does not do justice to the concept of negotiation. Also, to put this situation in comparison to other Thuringian university cities: Erfurt is the absolute front-runner in Thuringia in terms of the price of the local transport ticket for students. The price in Erfurt is also relatively high in a nationwide comparison, although the area covered in Erfurt is relatively small.

Erfurt has planned to become an attractive university location and a fair public transport ticket plays an important role here. Location advantages must remain. We, as the Student Council of the University of Erfurt, demand a financial concession and the prompt resumption of negotiations with EVAG, facilitated by the Mayor. Since we are required to make a decision by the end of November, time is pressing. This clear urgency was unfortunately not considered in the decision during today's city council meeting to not allow the joint motion by the parliamentary groups "Die Linke" and "BÜNDNIS 90/Die Grünen" onto today's agenda, and thereby block discussion of this point.

There has been a precedent in which no agreement was reached with the EVAG on the semester ticket fee, and the Mayor subsequently advocated for a renegotiation process. We would support such an action in this instance to find a solution for the current situation.

We would like to reiterate the urgency and importance of this issue: We need a timely agreement in which across-the-board price increases are not carried out on the backs of the students!

- For the board -



Mary Margaret Hall



Gina Meier



Elisabeth Mënne