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1. Preamble

As an internationally renowned university location, Heidelberg's institutions have a particularly high potential to carry climate protection deeper into day-to-day life of the scientific world by leading by example. The Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, in particular, can use its status as a university of excellence to prove that top-level research and academic teaching are not only compatible with climate protection, but can also benefit from it. As students at Heidelberg's universities, we aim to use the following catalogue to appeal to the institutions located here to demonstrate insight and foresight by implementing the structural processes that are required due to the climate crisis in an open and future-oriented process. We are well aware of the fact that the actors are part of a complex structure of responsibilities and that not all demands can be implemented easily and quickly. However, we are interested in initiating a process in which the aforementioned entities set themselves binding objectives in order to achieve climate neutrality within a time-frame that is compatible with the protection of the basis of human existence.

This paper is intended to formulate the framework conditions for our demands. It is published in two versions, a short version and a long version. These differ in that in the long version there is additional justification for the individual points. The abstract demands in this paper will be complemented by a second paper, which will be prepared following the approval of this paper by the student assembly on 25.11.2019. This action paper includes specific demands for action with regards to sustainability and climate protection by the addressees listed below and is to be developed in cooperation with all interested parties. It is intended to clarify and concretise the demands formulated here. We demand that the action paper be given due consideration in the implementation of these demands.

We demand public statements from all addressees of this paper on the following demands by 10.01.2020.

1.1 Addressees

This catalogue of demands is addressed to the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, the Pädagogische Hochschule Heidelberg as well as all Heidelberger research institutions (e.g. DKFZ, Max-Planck-Institutes) and the University Hospital. The demands are also addressed to the Studierendenwerk Heidelberg. Although this legally represents an independent institution alongside the university, it has a direct influence on the everyday life of more than 49.000 students. The Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg shall use its influence as a member in the Representation Assembly and in the Administrative Council of the Studierendenwerk to fulfil the demands formulated here. In addition, we support the demands of the Mensa Working Group of the Verfasste Studierendenschaft for a more sustainable operation of the canteens.

In the following, all these institutions are referred to as "the University" for better readability.



2. general receivables

As the **cornerstones of civil society**, the above-mentioned actors not only have a **special role model function**, but they also have a **special duty of care** towards the natural foundations of life. *Other universities (e.g. ETHZ) have already implemented more far-reaching and comprehensive concepts and programs then the University, which is on the verge of being left behind.

- We demand of the University to live up to its social responsibility, to show potential for improvement and to increase the pressure to act by becoming climate neutral and sustainable at the earliest possible point in time, at the latest by 2035. Here, climate neutrality means a net-emission of zero with explicit exclusion of emissions reduction by certificate trading.
- We do not, however, only demand sustainability in the quantitative sense, but also a holistic sustainable reorientation of the University. This is to be developed in a participatory process together with stakeholders such as employees and students.
- We demand of the University, that if the implementation lies outside
 the University's sphere of responsibility, it engages third parties, such
 as the state and the city, with its negotiating mass in this regard.

All the demands in the following chapters are to be understood as concretizing these points. If the demands as a whole are not sufficient to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, they will take precedence over the exact implementation of the remaining requirements. The objective of climate neutrality by 2035 is meant in the sense that all institutions become individually climate neutral and not just the University as a whole.

2.1 Solidarity with Fridays for Future

 We, the students, declare our solidarity with the demands of the Fridays for Future movement and demand the University to do likewise.

2.2 Climate Emergency

We demand that the University call a climate emergency. This means
that all measures are examined for their relevance to climate
change and that the reduction of climate damage is given top priority,
which cannot be postponed.

The proclamation of climate emergency is a symbolic measure by which, for example administrations, declare that there is a man-made climate crisis and that the current countermeasures are not sufficient to combat it. The review of the climate relevance of all measures taken by the University is intended to ensure that the influence of such measures on the achievement of the climate goals can be assessed and that counterproductive measures can be avoided.

2.3 Divestment

We demand a published and for the University binding decision, which
will prevent new investments in environmentally and climatedamaging companies, in particular gas, oil and coal companies, and
that existing investments in such companies will be divested as soon as
possible, but at the latest within the next 5 years. These include companies that explore, produce, mine, transport and generate electricity from
coal, crude oil and natural gas.

In addition to its own assets, the University also administers foundation assets, for example from estates. The total assets are invested, but these investments at the moment are made without taking into account the climate-damaging nature of the companies supported with them. Divestment here refers to the process of transferring money that is invested in climate-damaging facilities to climate-friendly ones. We are aware that the University must comply with legal requirements regarding the handling of its assets. Should this prevent the 5-year deadline from being met, the University should work with the state of Baden-Württemberg to find a solution.

2.4 Monitoring and control mechanism

• We demand that a comprehensive sustainability report be drawn up by independent bodies by mid-2020 at the latest and that this report

be produced and published in its entirety on an unsolicited **annual basis** in future.

The basis of all efforts to reduce the University's harmfulness to the climate must be a report that transparently documents the current status in this regard. Since this data is also indispensable for the evaluation of reduction measures, we demand that such a report be prepared and published annually.

We demand concrete 2-yearly objectives in all areas of the University
in order to achieve complete climate neutrality by the above-mentioned
time. These objectives must at least correspond to the objectives decided by the municipal council of the city of Heidelberg and be coupled
with concrete consequences that are binding in the event of noncompliance.

In order to evaluate whether progress has been made towards the required climate neutrality, we call for objectives to be set every two years. Since the University cannot be seen in isolation from the urban context, these objectives should at least correspond to those decided by the local council. At the same time, correction mechanisms must be planned in order to bring the University back to the required reduction path quickly and effectively if the goals are not achieved.

2.5 Cooperation with third parties

We are aware that the University is not an isolated system and that there are various relationships and interdependencies with local and other actors. As the largest employer in the city of Heidelberg and the largest land user, the University has **great bargaining power**.

 We call on the University to cooperate constructively with the city and the state and to make its resources available in order to achieve the climate protection goals required here.

3. Buildings and energy

To achieve climate neutrality, buildings play a crucial role, as hot water, heating, cooling and lighting consume a lot of energy. Potential savings can be achieved, for example, through better insulation, more efficient operating procedures and technical optimisation. Since new buildings are designed for long operating times, it is essential to pay attention not only to climate-friendly construction but also to their energy efficiency.

3.1 Buildings

 We demand that the University renovate all its buildings by 2035 so that they at least meet the KfW 55 energy standard. This renovation should be carried out with eco-friendly and climate-friendly building materials. If the planning or implementation of these measures is outside your sphere of competence we demand that the University advocate for the measures among those responsible.

An important step towards climate neutrality is the reduction of energy consumption. This reduction can be achieved most efficiently by energetic refurbishment. It would be optimum if all buildings at least met the passive house standard. However, since this is unrealistic with regard to the building substance, we demand at least the KfW 55 energy standard be met for all buildings.

 We demand the evaluation of all vertical and horizontal building surfaces for climate-friendly and sustainable use. The University should continue to support the city of Heidelberg and the state of Baden-Württemberg in easing the protection of historical monuments with regard to the installation of photovoltaic systems and advance their expansion on its own premises. Vertical and horizontal building surfaces can be used in a variety of ways, for example for vertical and horizontal greening. This would, among other things, improve the air quality and cool the buildings in summer and reduce the heating of the exterior surfaces. Furthermore, according to the solar roof register of the city of Heidelberg, a large part of the roofs in the Neuenheimer Feld are good or very good suited for the installation of photovoltaic systems and thus offer great potential for the proprietary production of renewable energy.

 We demand that all future new buildings at least meet the passive house standard and that climate-damaging building materials are largely avoided during construction.

Buildings that meet at least the passive house standard contribute significantly to the reduction of energy consumption, with over-fulfilment through the construction of zero-energy houses or positive-energy houses being welcomed. One example of building materials that are harmful to the climate is concrete, as a very large amount of greenhouse gases is released during production.

We demand that new buildings generally and renovations, wherever possible, are done in an **open design** to not restrict future modifications of the utilities infrastructure.

Since one does not know future technological advances in the beginning of building projects, it is imperative to not block potentials here. One possibility of achieving this is to use reversible pipeline infrastructure

3.2 Energy

- We demand the following prioritization from the University when dealing with energy (electricity and heat):
 - 1. Priority **Sufficiency** (reduction of consumption)
 - 2. Priority **Efficiency** (use of intelligent technology)
 - 3. Priority proprietary production
 - 4. Priority **purchase of renewables** (e.g. promotion of the expansion of renewable energies for electricity)

The most important contribution to energy system transformation is the reduction of existing energy consumption. This can be achieved by reducing demand (sufficiency) and by increasing technical efficiency (e.g. by replacing light sources with LED technology). Since the amount of renewable energy also has to be increased at the same time, we demand the prioritization of proprietary production over purchasing from external sources. Should such a purchase be necessary, however, it must also promote the development of renewable energies, since, for example for electricity sometimes, only European certificates are traded without affecting actual production in Germany.

• We demand that all potentials of the proprietary production of renewable energy are fully exploited. The remaining electricity requirements are to be covered by contracts that provide 100

Since in-house production of renewable energies is preferable to purchasing from external sources, we demand that the existing potential of the University's ground be completely exhausted.

 We demand that by the end of 2020 all buildings be checked for their energy balance and that the results be disclosed in the above-mentioned annual report, e.g. in the form of an EMAS-compliant environmental statement.

Measures to reduce climate harmfulness of buildings cannot be planned effectively without evaluation of the current situation. The energy balance required herein should do this in terms of heat and electricity consumption. EMAS is an environmental management and audit system developed by the European Union to help administrations reduce their environmental impact.

 We demand that the water sector is also included in the assessment of heat recovery potentials.

One large item in the energy balance of buildings is energy used to heat water. This heat is usually lost from the system with the waste water. Since existing standards don't consider these potentials, we demand this consideration.

• We demand that the heating network in the Neuenheimer Feld be made efficient and climate-friendly.

There is a heating network in the Neuenheimer Feld, which distributes the heat from the gas cogeneration plant located on the campus. The carrier medium in this network is currently steam, which is very inefficient. We demand that this heating network be re-designed to be efficient and climate-friendly.

 We demand that all central heating systems be retrofitted to efficient heat pumps and the University should urge the city of Heidelberg to end the use of heat from the Großkraftwerk Mannheim (GKM).
 Furthermore we demand the usage of climate friendly and powersaving air conditioning systems.

The most climate-friendly heating technology for buildings at the moment apart from renewable sources such as solar thermal or geothermal energy - their comprehensive use was demanded above - are heat pumps. We therefore demand their use wherever it is not possible to use renewable heat sources for heating and where there is no access to the district heating network. Where buildings are connected to the district heating network, we demand that the University should urge the city of Heidelberg to end the use of heat from the coal-fired power plant in Mannheim (GKM) as soon as possible. Since with increasing extreme weather events, air conditioning is gaining more and more importance, we demand the use of climate friendly and power-saving systems.



4. Research and teaching

Teaching and research play a central role in shaping our society. In particular, the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, as a university of excellence, should take on an exemplary role and contribute to finding a solution to the acute climate crisis with its orientation of research and teaching. Only in this way can it really live up to its motto "Future since 1386".

4.1 Teaching

 We demand that the University should be structurally open to interand transdisciplinarity from the very beginning of the course of studies in order to address the global problem of the climate crisis. To this end, not only opportunities but also incentives for interdisciplinary study must be created in the form of modularised degree courses.

The complexity of the global climate crisis requires that students be offered opportunities to think beyond the individual university disciplines, which is required by the concept of interdisciplinarity. Transdisciplinarity means the additional inclusion of non-academic parts of society.

 We demand that the embedding of sustainability and climate protection issues in the context of the climate crisis should become an integral part of all courses of study and University courses.

It has become a major concern of many students to learn about the climate crisis. However, the curricula of the various degree programmes currently offer hardly any opportunities to do so. Embedding these aspects would therefore not only enrich teaching but also reflect the interest of the students.

 We call for the strengthening, expansion and creation of professorships that deal with sustainability as well as environmental and climate-relevant aspects. These include, on the one hand, professorships in the natural sciences that deal, for example, with climate-neutral mobility and energy technologies in research and teaching. On the other hand, an in-depth examination of new professorships in the humanities and social sciences on the questions of what climate-friendly and sustainable economic and social systems can look like.

• We demand that all employees of the University have the opportunity to participate in courses offered by the University.

The climate crisis does not only affect students, but all people. For this reason, all University staff who are interested in dealing with the climate crisis must be given access to the relevant courses.

4.2 Research

• We demand that sustainability and climate protection become a criterion in assessing the eligibility of research for funding.

This means that research projects which make a direct contribution to solving the climate crisis will be promoted and prioritised and that research which is in conflict with solving the climate crisis will receive less support.

 In order to solve the global problem of the climate crisis, we call for both international and interregional cooperation in research to address the problems at the macro-, meso- and micro-level. This applies in particular to the countries and regions most affected by the consequences of the climate crisis.

Although the climate crisis is a global problem, not all regions are affected in the same way and not all measures to prevent it are equally appropriate in all regions. An efficient solution therefore requires stronger international and interregional research, taking into account regional differences.

We demand that the acceptance of third-party funds and cooperations with private companies be investigated to see whether the interests of the donors are in conflict with the efforts to overcome the climate crisis. In such a case, financing may not be accepted under any circumstances.

KAPITEL 4. RESEARCH AND TEACHING

The University is currently dependent on third-party funding in order to implement the research goals demanded above. In order to avoid a conflict of interest between externally funded research and donors, the interests of the latter should not conflict with the objective of overcoming the climate crisis.

• We demand that all data and research results relating to the climate crisis be made publicly available free of charge.

The publication of the results and data is intended to ensure that all people on this planet can benefit from the research related to the climate crisis. This also ensures that the research results required to solve the climate crisis are not exploited to generate profit, but to stop the climate crisis.



5. Land use and mobility

As Heidelberg's largest employer, the University has a special responsibility to lead by example and to ensure that mobility to and from the workplace is sustainable. But also business trips are an important factor in reducing CO2 emissions, whether for excursions, training and research purposes or to conferences. In terms of land use, sustainability refers both to the protection and promotion of biodiversity and to urban planning development.

5.1 Land use

 We demand from the University to break up all surface sealings and to avoid new area sealings.

Surface sealings are problematic in several respects. They not only increase the effects of extreme weather events and endanger biodiversity, but also cause so-called heat islands, which can endanger human health in summer.

We call on the University to make all outdoor areas sustainable. Biodiversity should be demonstrably protected and promoted and the areas should also be made available to the public in the sense of transdisciplinarity.

One of the most important foundations for an ecosystem that is resilient not only to the climate crisis is pronounced biodiversity. This can be achieved by explicitly designing outdoor areas with a focus on biodiversity. Furthermore, it is important to involve non-University participants in these processes in order to carry this change into the wider society.

• We demand that all open spaces at the University be used in an ecologically sensible way, even between planned uses.

Even areas for which further use is already planned can in the meantime be used in an ecologically sensible way in the interest of biodiversity.

• We demand that the University, as a member of the "Forum Masterplan Im Neuenheimer Feld / Neckarbogen", works in a constructive manner together with the city, the state and interest groups towards the goal of a sustainable and at least climate-neutral campus.

The Masterplan Neuenheimer Feld is a process in which the above-mentioned stakeholders are to decide on the further development of the Neuenheimer Feld campus. In order to develop this important campus with 15,000 employees and 18,000 students in a sustainable and climate-friendly way, this objective must already be incorporated into the master plan process. This includes in particular the prioritisation of sustainable, i.e. low-emission mobility concepts and their support by the University.

5.2 Mobility

While the aim of these demands is to make mobility sustainable in a university context, we are aware that the worldwide exchange of students and scientists is an important contribution to research and teaching. Our goal is not to prevent it, but to make it sustainable by changing the way in which it comes about, and to make it compatible with our livelihoods.

5.2.1 Commuting (employees and students)

 We call on the University to concentrate its mobility concepts on the environmental alliance.

The term "environmental alliance" encompasses all climate-friendly means of transport. The most important contribution is made by the almost climate-neutral pedestrian and bicycle traffic, which must be the focus of sustainable mobility. Public transport is also an important component and its consideration is therefore essential for sustainable development.

 We demand that the University massively expand its bicycle infrastructure and develops its campuses into bicycle hubs. Although bicycle mobility is already one of the most intensively used forms of mobility here in Heidelberg, this is not reflected in the infrastructure. We call for a massive expansion of the bicycle infrastructure in order to promote existing bicycle mobility and make it even more attractive in the future.

 We demand that the University also engage with the city and public transport companies to make commuting by public transport more attractive for all people associated with the University.

Public transport makes an important contribution to climate-friendly mobility. Therefore, its expansion and use should be promoted by the University. Furthermore, this promotion is to apply to all persons associated with the University.

 We demand that the attractiveness of motorised private transport be reduced. At the same time, the more climate-friendly use of automobiles at full passenger capacity is to be promoted during the transitional period.

Since motorised private transport is very resource-intensive and harmful to the climate, we demand that its attractiveness, which is still too high, be reduced. At the same time, where not otherwise possible, the use of fully occupied cars should be promoted, for example through carpooling.

5.2.2 Business trips/excursions

 We demand a drastic reduction in air travel. Business, research and educational trips and excursions are to be conducted without air traffic as far as possible. If it can be guaranteed that the travel time for arrival and departure will not exceed 24 hours more climate-friendly mobility such as bus and train is to be used.

Experience has shown that business trips by air are a major item in the climate balance sheets of universities. We therefore call for a consistent transition to more climate-friendly forms of mobility.

• We demand the prioritisation and subsidisation of **regional excursions** for research and educational purposes.

Although excursions to distant locations sometimes are unavoidable, we nevertheless call for them to be limited to regional destinations as far as possible. Furthermore, regional excursions should be explicitly promoted.

Aware of the importance of global exchange for science, we demand the
development of new communication and networking structures.
In this context, we also demand investments in video conferencing
technology and its use as a substitute for travelling.

Global exchange is one of the great strengths of modern science and should not be generally restricted by these demands, but be accomplished in a different way. New communication and networking structures that exploit the potential of digitalization can make a contribution to reducing its climate-damaging effects.

5.2.3 University's own vehicle fleet

 We demand the reduction of the University's own vehicle fleet to a minimum and a fast transition to climate-friendly drive technologies, at the latest by 2030. In perspective we demand the complete transition to climate-neutral drives.

Since vehicles are resource-intensive, we demand a reduction in the vehicle fleet. At the same time, fossil drives are making a major contribution to the climate crisis, which is why we call for a transition to climate-friendly drive technologies by 2030 at the latest. This transition should, however, be designed to be climate-friendly, since it is important to avoid additional emissions through the premature replacement of vehicles.

 We demand that all new acquisitions from now on are compatible with the goal of climate neutrality.

With a lifetime of usually more than ten years, the purchase of vehicles represents a long-term commitment. We demand that this be taken into account when making new acquisitions.

6. Institutional

The institutional foundations shape the orientation of every university to a large extent. So that words can really be followed by deeds, we want to use these already existing institutional means of the University and expand them in such a way that the demands made here are actually implemented. In addition, participatory procedures and transparent review mechanisms are to be established to promote and evaluate compliance with the requirements.

 We demand that the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg and the Pädagogische Hochschule Heidelberg give themselves a sustainability guideline and include it in their respective constitutions and mission statements. In it, they are to commit themselves to doing their part to comply with the Paris Climate Convention of 2015, more precisely the 1.5°C target.

At the end of September 2016, the Bundestag ratified the agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNF-CCC), known as the "Paris Convention", to limit global warming to well below 2 °C, in the best case to 1.5 °C, above pre-industrial levels. The Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg and the Pädagogische Hochschule Heidelberg as corporations under public law, formally subject to the supervision of the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, shall commit themselves to this national goal. Furthermore, the other entities, which are summarised here under the term "the University" (see 1.1.1), should also legally commit themselves to this goal.

 On this basis, we demand that the University evaluate its possibilities for action in relation to the climate crisis and implement them through an institutionalised environmental management system certified according to the EMAS standard. EMAS includes the obligation to publish an **annual environmental statement** and to improve and adapt the own objectives each year. The first environmental statement according to EMAS corresponds to the preparation of a comprehensive sustainability report (stocktaking on the way to climate neutrality) by June 2020 at the latest. This report is to be prepared unsolicited and regularly on an annual basis and published in full.

 We demand specific 2-year objectives in all areas of the University in order to achieve complete climate neutrality by 2035. These objectives must at least correspond to the objectives decided by the municipal council of the city of Heidelberg and be linked to concrete consequences that are binding in the event of non-compliance.

It is necessary to set tight objectives, in order to be able to assess whether the University remains on the reduction path towards climate neutrality. Since the University cannot be seen in isolation from the municipal context these objectives should at least correspond to those adopted by the local council. Also, objectives are only meaningful in combination with consequences which are triggered by non-compliance with the objectives.

We demand that competencies are bundled in a new position "Sustainability Officer" that is created according to the model of the Equal Opportunities Officer. In addition, the sustainability officer is additionally supported by voluntary representative in each institute and each faculty.



The institutionalization of sustainability goals is thus established. Should the office to be created be introduced similar to §20 - 22 of the Basic Regulations of the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, the Senate and faculties, for example, will have a considerable right of codetermination (cf.: pages 18 - 19: https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/md/neuphil/grundordnung_16_4_15.pdf). The representatives contribute to the annual preparation of the EMAS environmental statement and contribute ideas for improving the use of resources. The freedom of science is maintained by communications between all disciplines and at the same time the common sustainability goals are pursued.

The tasks of this office shall be the further development of a sustainability guideline by

- balancing of the total resource consumption of the institutions
- Evaluation of the success of the institution's own sustainability goals
- Cooperation with a senate committee to be formed / senate commission of the institution to achieve its sustainability goals
- We demand the establishment of a **Senate committee** to evaluate and promote compliance with the "Sustainability Guideline". In this committee, all status groups of the University must be given a say.

The sustainability guideline must also be represented in the Senate as one of the highest bodies of the University. In order to avoid disadvantages, all status groups of the University must have a say in the senate committee to be formed.



7. Resources

As the earth's resources are limited, sustainability as an overall objective always also means a sustainable use of the same resources. This includes the reduction of consumption as well as a sustainable purchasing and disposal concept.

7.1 Consumption reduction

 We demand the University design its priorities in dealing with resources such as energy, water and paper according to the rule of thumb "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle".

This includes, among other things, the digitization of administrative processes at the University. By dealing with resources as described above, we are able to make their use more sustainable.

We demand that the University strive for a zero waste campus without unduly restricting research.

A certain amount of waste will be unavoidable in research, e.g. for reasons of sterility. Nevertheless, the University is to draw up, implement and comply with a waste avoidance concept for the construction of a zero-waste campus, so that energy and material cycles are closed.

• We demand the University dispose of all hazardous waste in a verifiable, environmentally friendly and sustainable manner.

Hazardous waste can be a major threat to the environment, which is why traceability of its correct disposal is important.

7.2 Other

• We demand that the purchase of materials must take account of sustainability, longevity and environmental compatibility, e.g. by prioritising eco-labels.

Even if environmental labels are not always a perfect solution, they offer a certain security with regard to production and product standards. We therefore demand that they be used as a guideline when purchasing materials.

We demand a maintenance and repair concept for equipment, technology and infrastructure.

Such a concept should improve the longevity of equipment, technology and infrastructure and reduce resource intensity.



The Students for Future Heidelberg are the students' subgroup of the Fridays for Future Heidelberg.



