



## Pressrelease

### 117. adh General Assembly - Topics, Elections, Awards

**(20.10.2022) On 16 and 17 October 2022, the membership of the German University Sports Federation (adh) met for its 117th General Assembly to review the past year and make forward-looking decisions. Delegates from the more than 200 member universities looked back on numerous positive developments as well as current challenges at the Humboldt University in Berlin.**

#### **Review and outlook - anchoring university sport as an explicit university task**

In his welcoming speech, adh chairman of the board Jörg Förster pointed out: "With the intensive preparations for the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU World University Games, the very positive response to the national adh competition and education events, the successful EUSA Games or the all-round successful initiative "Bewegt studieren - Studieren bewegt 2.0!" we were able to achieve many successes in the current year".

Once again, however, the member universities, their university sports facilities and the adh itself see the danger of not being able to fulfil the legal mandate of university sports in the winter semester 2022/2023 in view of the energy crisis and related measures.

"Getting people moving, experiencing the positive effects of it and integrating it permanently into their own lives, and letting them experience community but also identity and identification in the university lifeworld, must not be called into question once again," says Förster.

In terms of crisis management, the adh board, the committees, the member universities as well as the institutional partners have worked intensively together to proactively contribute to solutions. "adh will enter into dialogue with its partners in the socio-political, educational and sport-political environment in order to achieve security of action and planning for the member universities," Förster explained.

The importance of university sport for the university setting was underlined by the Vice-President for Research at HU Berlin, Prof. Dr. Christoph Schneider, and the Secretary General of the German Rectors' Conference, Dr. Jens-Peter Gaul. He said that university sport had done a great job and, despite limitations, had contributed significantly to the physical and mental health of students and staff. Dr. Jens-Peter Gaul emphasised that during the pandemic the importance of university sport as a social meeting place had come into focus. He pointed out that university sport and its further development were integral tasks of the universities, for which the appropriate framework conditions were needed. From the HRK's point of view, it was important that university sport gets anchored as an explicit university task with the goal of financial security.

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Dr. Urte Ketelhön, business unit university infrastructure at the HIS Institute for Higher Education Development, followed up on this in her impulse to anchor prevention and health promotion. She made it clear that university sport can make an important contribution to a holistic approach of the "healthy campus". "The successful inclusion of the topic area of health promotion in the adh mission statement during the general assembly is another important step towards strengthening the role of university sport," said Förster.

### **Elections - Jörg Förster is chairman of the adh board**

At the adh General Assembly, elections for the 2022/2024 term of office were on the agenda.

The university sports representatives unanimously confirmed the managing director of Hochschulsport Hamburg, Jörg Förster, as chairman of the adh board. Förster is thus starting his fourth term in this position. They also elected Dirk Kilian, head of university sports at HS Darmstadt, who had been involved in the adh board in the area of education since 2015, as member of the board for finances. The adh board is completed by the students Joshua Feinstein (TU Kaiserslautern), Hanne Nagel (Uni Lüneburg) and Svea Thamsen (Uni Potsdam).

The elections of the board were followed by the elections of the Commission of Competition, the Commission of Education and Development and the Auditing Commission. Furthermore, the 117th adh General Assembly confirmed the members of the National Council.

### **Honours and awards**

At the adh Gala during the General Assembly, the adh honoured the University of the Year as well as the University Sportswoman, the University Sportsman and the Team of the Year for special achievements in studies and top-class sports.

The adh board honoured the university sport of the Goethe University Frankfurt for its exemplary work and its great commitment at the university, in the region and in the association. Martin Miecke, head of university sports, accepted the award.

Lea Scholz (HU Berlin) and Michael Roth (HTW Berlin) were honoured as Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year thanks to their outstanding results at the FISU World University Championships (WUC) Speed Skating 2022 in Lake Placid. The special award for Team of the Year 2022 went to the national women's student futsal team, which in July became the first German women's team to participate very successfully in the FISU World University Championships.

The delegates of the adh General Assembly appointed the University Sports Director of the University of Münster, Jörg Verhoeven, and the adh Finance and Administration Officer, Bernd Mühle, as honorary members. Both have distinguished themselves for many years through their tireless commitment to university sport and to the association.

In addition, the adh awarded the adh sponsorship prize for sustainability, supported by Walkolution and Sport-Thieme, for the second time. The TU Chemnitz and the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences were awarded for their sustainable commitment to university sport.

### **Photos**

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