

Statement to the Press

Since Monday evening, a group of climate activists under the name of "Transformations Universität 2.0" have been occupying lecture hall 1010 in KG 1 of the University of Freiburg, Germany. The climate activists are demanding that the university, among other things, declare a socio-ecological emergency, as was already done by the "Freie Universität Berlin" and many German cities. Detailed demands can be found on the website: <https://transformationsuni20.noblogs.org/>

Sadly, the positive conversations that took place with representatives of the university administration on the first day of occupation have come to a standstill. This is because the university administration set an ultimatum, demanding that the climate activists vacate the lecture hall by Wednesday, the 22nd of June, at 12 pm, in order to continue conversations. The group "Transformationsuni 2.0" has not complied with this request. The group is under the impression that by giving up the occupation, a balance of power in the conversation is not given - there would be no more pressure on the university to hold to their word. Today, on the 23rd of June, the university publicly spoke about the occupation. In their statement they stated"

"...the university therefore sincerely regrets that the group „Transformationsuni 2.0“ has used an occupation as the method to push their demands. [Further they regret] that they [the Transformationsuni 2.0] are not continuing the dialogue/discussion of the content-related possibilities that were begun with the administration of the first night of the occupation and continued on Tuesday morning."

Read the full statement here: (<https://kommunikation.uni-freiburg.de/pm/2022/statement-der-universitaet-freiburg-zur-reaktion-der-gruppe-transformationsuni-2-0-auf-die-gespraechs-und-inhaltlichen-angebote-der-universitaetsleitung>)

The climate activists are disappointed that the university has failed to see why the occupation was the method of choice.

The occupation of a university is not a new political method. It has been used in the past by students to address issues that are urgent, but for which the university has not taken action.

The statement from the university spoke of the illegality of the action being "unacceptable" – "especially regarding urgent challenges like climate change and sustainable development."

If we do not act, who will? And when will you finally listen and act?