



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
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Lecturers' Conference (KdL)

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Lecturers' Conference (KdL) 2017/18: Activity report

One focus in 2017/18 was the conferral of the KITE Award for the second time. In the summer of 2017 the departments and the Executive Board Teaching Commission nominated 28 projects for the prize. The selection committee, headed by Nicolas Gruber, chose four finalists, who presented their projects to a plenum session of the Lecturers' Conference, who then selected the winner. The prize went to computer scientists Lukas Fässler and Markus Dahinden, who received their award from the hands of the Rector at a dignified ceremony on 25 April 2018. The KdL was, as on the first occasion, impressed by the high quality of all projects submitted. To honour the achievements of the participants and to publicise their interesting concepts within ETH, all projects were published in a booklet.

The working group addressing the subject of the first year of studies (chair: Alexander Caspar), which began its work the previous year, conducted several group interviews with first-year lecturers. They then discussed the constructive feedback and ideas stemming from these interviews with colleagues from EPFL. A summary report is nearing completion and will be presented to the Executive Board in the summer of 2018.

The working group on teaching evaluation (chair: Hansruedi Maurer), together with Educational Development and Technology (LET), formulated a model for peer evaluation via which lecturers observe each other's teaching and provide feedback. The original idea was to test this concept in a large pilot study. However, because the departments were somewhat sceptical about the idea, the pilot will now be conducted on a small scale among KdL members. The results will be available at the end of 2018.

In 2017/18 the Lecturers' Conference exercised its duty to nominate faculty members to commissions and special positions, in two cases. It elected Rainer Schulin as the second liaison officer, next to Bernhard Plattner, in cases of suspected research misconduct; and confirmed Michael Sigrist for a second term as a member of the Catering Commission.

For its session in December 2017 the Lecturers' Conference invited State Secretary Dr Mauro Dell'Ambrogio to a discussion and dinner. The exchange was open and relaxed, and KdL gained an interesting insight into the various levels of Swiss university policy.

Various guests were invited to plenary sessions to discuss current themes: President Lino Guzzella (extension of professors' employment beyond the age of 65); Equal Opportunities representative Renate Schubert (Code of Conduct); the Vice-Rector for Curriculum Development (continuous performance assessment); the Head of Personnel and Organisational Development (POE), Martin Ghisletti (Senior Scientists); and the Head of LET, Daniel Halter (presentation of LET).

Finally, as in all other years, in 2017/18 the Lecturers' Conference provided its advisory opinion in various consultation sessions. These concerned the following:

- Directive on deploying continuous performance assessment in teaching
- Senior Scientists concept
- Code of Conduct
- Strategy regarding equal opportunities and gender balance in the ETH domain, 2017-2020

The respective KdL positions may be viewed on the Lecturers' Conference (KdL) website, www.kdl.ethz.ch, in addition to further information on KdL, including details on members and meeting dates.