

Transcription of the meeting with the Vice-Rector for Students and Quality of Teaching, prof. Sławomir Żółtek, from 22nd February 2021.

If the epidemic situation in Poland improves will it be possible to introduce a hybrid system at University?

Today's meeting is mainly aimed at clarifying the organization of teaching in the semester that actually started today. You surely already know that His Magnificence, the Rector, professor Alojzy Z. Nowak, issued an ordinance that specifies the type of organization of teaching in the summer semester. This is an ordinance of January 18, 2021. It is indicated in it that education - as a rule - is remote, and full-time education, i.e. classical education at the University, is possible only if we have practical classes, i.e. those whose learning outcomes cannot be realized remotely. Only such classes can be carried out at the University or outside it, if they are field or field classes. Otherwise, the classes must be remote. I am a supporter of a fairly narrow interpretation of practical classes and I do not think that classes with even the most eminent professor or doctor, lecturer, or anyone who will teach us practical elements, are of a practical nature. No. These are ordinary academic activities, while practical activities are those that involve working with test tubes, which require specific activities - in archeology, for example, excavations. It is hard to imagine that such activities would be remote in nature. I quite rigorously distinguish practical classes from lectures, theoretical ones. In this ordinance issued by His Magnificence, there is no such delegation as in the previous ordinance that the heads of teaching units in the case of other classes may decide to conduct them on a full-time basis at the University. Why? Because we heard voices that the students themselves did not necessarily speak well about such a regulation due to the possibility of surprise. We did not want to allow a situation that after two months, without any broader consultations, the heads of educational units will decide that you will return to the university, which was possible under the previous ordinance. It did not happen, but it was possible. We are aware that a large part of you is outside Warsaw, that you are not able to organize your life in Warsaw within three or four days, i.e. return to dormitories or rent apartments. It would simply be logistically very difficult to carry out, therefore this ordinance does not provide such competences in relation to ordinary classes. Such competence is only in relation to the activities of a practical nature, i.e. those I mentioned.

Answering the question that has been asked - if the epidemic situation actually improves to such an extent that we consider that it is possible to conduct classes for all students at the University of Warsaw in a full-time or hybrid manner, then in advance, after consulting the Board of the Local Government I will persuade the rector to change the ordinance and introduce such a possibility for students, with students, and with heads of educational units. So, in other words, we prefer a longer path, the so-called legislation to come back when it comes to classroom teaching. The return of all students to the university will require a change in the rector's ordinance, and it will be the decision of His Magnificence Rector.

Are the University authorities considering a possible return to the University in the future only for students vaccinated against COVID-19?

Firstly, from a legal point of view, I cannot quite imagine a situation where we would have to ask students if they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 or not. This is the first difficulty in making such a distinction. We also have the issue of personal data protection - health information is sensitive information and I would not like to force you to share such information. It would also be difficult to verify such answers, and the risk would be very high in a situation of misrepresentation or misunderstanding of the question. This is quite an embarrassing point.

However, there is a second problem associated with it, this is what I said in answer to the previous question - I am not a fan of hybrid classes because hybrid classes are very logistically difficult to conduct. Hybrid classes mean that you do some classes at the University and some online. Dividing the groups so that it can be done, separating one activity from another is very difficult. While I am able to imagine it in programmes with a small number of students, I rather cannot imagine it in large ones. It is also difficult for me to imagine a division into groups for vaccinated and unvaccinated students, or students who have fallen ill and those who have not contracted COVID. These are things that I believe are logistically risky and legally difficult. To conclude this statement - no, we do not consider such possibilities, which does not mean that if such a decision is taken at the Ministry, we will not adjust to it. At the moment, however, I have not heard of such ideas in the Ministry.

How big is the chance to make up for field trips or, for example, forensics workshops in the summer semester?

Practical classes, field classes can already be conducted today and this is a decision regarding basic studies or first-cycle, second-cycle or uniform studies. This is the decision of the heads of teaching units, usually vice-deans for student affairs. They decide when and how these activities are to be conducted. I have already discussed this topic with some of the heads of educational units. I do not rule out that at our next meeting - and we meet periodically - we will return to the topic and suggest that we seriously consider conducting field activities, especially since this regulation, which is in force now, similarly to the previous regulation, gives the possibility of conducting these classes in a block. In other words - it is conceivable that the fieldwork would last, for example, for 10 days without a break, not 10 weeks, and once a week, you just meet for 10 days and you do field activities all the time. But, as I said, this is the decision of the heads of educational units. I can only suggest to them to come back to it due to the fact that it is a big problem in some of the fields of study.

What about negotiations and when can we expect to receive access to Microsoft Office 365 for students?

As for the negotiations, they go on all the time. It is not an easy matter due to the costs involved and the procedure in which the contract must be concluded. However, we have another problem here and I will ask you to conduct a survey at the University of Warsaw before we spend the money. We have the ability to use Microsoft's online tools all the time and every student can use this mode. The interest, however, is very small, and I would like to know why this interest is so little, not to say, slight. Why are these online tools not used? This is not a criticism, but I would like to know if the purchase of a large-scale package for tens of thousands of students will actually be used, since the online package is not used today. It does not change the fact that these issues are constantly analyzed and examined. Unfortunately, I know it takes a while, which is not nice. But I would like to ask you to take part in this survey when it is available, because it will also guide us to choose the optimal tools for you, and not to buy something that you may not really need.

Not everyone can find a safe space to exercise on a remote PE in the housing conditions. What to do when someone does not have the opportunity to find this safe space, and going to stationary classes is excluded for health reasons?

It is very difficult for me to answer this question. Sometimes you have to rely on common sense and maybe just practice outside, find a place where such exercises can be carried out - I do not think that it is in any way offensive to go out, exercise outside, simply. Since you cannot come to Warsaw for classes, you do not have enough space at home, I do not see any other option.

Is the UW planning to open reading rooms in faculty libraries and when, in particular, in the library of the Faculty of Law and Administration? Libraries of other faculties of law (the Universities of Wrocław, Silesia and the Jagiellonian University) have not locked their reading rooms and make their collections available to readers on the spot.

As for libraries, they should already be open, in particular the library of the Faculty of Law and Administration. Some time ago I talked to the Dean, prof. Tomasz Giaro and I asked him to consider opening a library. The Dean agreed. The faculty library works normally, but the reading room is limited in time. You cannot sit there all the time, only within certain time limits set by the Dean.

As for other libraries, I know that the vast majority of them work, but there is a problem with the reading rooms. This problem does not result from a lack of willingness to open up, but from the necessity to meet sanitary requirements, and some reading rooms in faculty libraries simply do not meet these requirements and cannot be opened. This applies to the safety of users, i.e. you, and employees, because it is obvious that if employees get sick, this library

will have to be closed anyway - not only the reading room, but the entire library. We are looking for a golden mean and we try to act in such a way that these libraries are partially opened. The deans try to act like this - I do not want to assign myself to the role of deans falling within the competence of the deans, because it is the deans who decide about it. I can at most suggest the deans.

In December last year The Council of the Doctoral School in Social Sciences issued an appeal to extend the possibility of educating doctoral students by one year in connection with the ongoing pandemic. PhD students who started their education at Doctoral Schools were not able to participate in classes or seminars on a full-time basis. Many of us still cannot start research or are currently conducting research in a very limited form - limited mobility, national lockdown and social distancing are particularly problematic for empirical research in the field of social sciences. Do the University of Warsaw authorities support the idea of extending doctoral students' education, or are any actions taken in this matter?

First of all - I do not feel competent to answer this question. Doctoral students report directly to His Magnificence to the Rector, prof. Alojzy Nowak. I believe that the idea is interesting, but should be analyzed at a higher level, as the possible extension referred to above requires statutory changes. And if there are legislative changes, or even changes to regulations, then you have to talk to the authorities, not with the university authorities, but with the Polish authorities. It also seems that the partner for such talks is the Polish representation of doctoral students. If I can make a suggestion, then people who represent doctoral students on the national level should contact the authorities of the ministry and try to clarify this issue, or propose a legislative initiative. If such an initiative is proposed, the Rector will certainly refer to it.

International students should receive discounts for full-time studies due to the remote form. Across Europe, universities have offered a discount option for students, so why doesn't the University of Warsaw treat international students in the same way?

I am not able to address the issue of discounts granted by other universities, so I do not know if this is a bit exaggerated. A few universities that I know did not give discounts, so I have some doubts in this respect. Moreover, when it comes to student discounts, there are Union discounts that are quite clearly regulated. There is Rector's Order No. 130 of September 30, 2019, which says what are the conditions, what is the procedure for exemption from fees for educational services, and we must follow this regulation. There are generally two paths when it comes to Polish students or studying as Poles. It is the heads of educational units that decide and, in this case, these are their sovereign decisions. I am then the body of appeal against these decisions. On the other hand, when it comes to foreigners, I decide as the Vice-Rector, but always with the opinion of the faculty or educational unit that conducts the studies. I

received a few, maybe a dozen, such requests, and were negatively assessed by the faculty authorities - in such a case, I had no grounds to take such requests into account. In a broader aspect, please remember that in general, fees for educational services at the University of Warsaw are set at the level at which the University incurs the costs of preparing these services or providing these educational services. I assure you, and this is something that we recently analyze with the heads of educational units, in the vast majority of departments, fees for educational services are below the actual costs incurred by the units. The fees charged to both Polish and foreign students are below the cost of providing these services by the University. In this situation, applying for further discounts is problematic for the University, because the University of Warsaw is an economic unit, it is a public finance unit, and when deciding on the amount of fees for educational services, deans or Vice-Deans must take this into account in order not to expose us to the so-called the allegation of mismanagement. These are really difficult situations, difficult matters and difficult decisions. As you already know, the fact of conducting remote classes does not have a particularly positive effect on the University's operating costs. It's not that if we conduct classes remotely, we suddenly have a lot of money left. This is because the costs that the University incurred while conducting full-time studies are still borne by conducting them remotely, that is, we must continue to pay the lecturers. After all, it is not the case that the few thousand people who teach with us receive lower salaries due to the fact that they run them remotely. It is not that the fees for the rooms have disappeared - these are our rooms, we have to take care of them all the time, we have to maintain them, we have to heat them, so all these costs are normally incurred, and we have even received fees for e.g. remote devices teaching, or for distance learning software. These are really difficult situations. I know that there is a general tendency to influence the authorities of various universities to lower fees because many people are in financial difficulties due to the pandemic. But we have our other side, the cost side, and that always has to be balanced. Maybe the solution, contrary to appearances, lies elsewhere and should be remembered - these are the issues of scholarships. I do not know if there will be any questions that will concern this, but I can tell you that I do not know why, during the pandemic, a significant, even very significant, not to say: interest in social scholarships has decreased enormously. There are many, much fewer applications for social scholarships than when we worked stationary - and this is something that is surprising and also hindering the management of scholarships at the University of Warsaw. Perhaps you should get interested in scholarships, I really encourage you to do so, because it is also a big problem for us when it comes to certain relationships between one scholarship and another. It is not that you can pay any amount of research scholarships without looking at social scholarships. This is quite clearly stated in the act - we have a 40/60 ratio and if we do not achieve one proportion, we must also reduce the other. So, I encourage you to take a look at the scholarships.

So the reduction in the number of applications was one of the reasons for the recent increase in the amount of the social scholarship paid?

In short, yes. If we did not increase the amount of the social grant, we would have to reduce the amount of the grant, because these are interrelated things, which, I have the impression,

often miss commentators. And this is the 40/60 rule that I told you about. This rule says that at least 40% of scholarship payments from the Scholarship Fund must be social scholarships. If we are not able to do it, we have fewer scholarships, or the payment is lower, then we have to proportionally lower the scholarships, and as you can guess, we were very keen not to lower the scholarships. We would even like to increase them, but in order to do so, we must have an appropriate ratio of social scholarships.

Hopefully, there will be more applications for both types of scholarships.

Please also remember about allowances, because it is also something that students in a difficult financial situation deserve, and we do not have too many applications for allowances. One-time allowance is up to 5,000. PLN, so I encourage you to remember about it and not to be ashamed of your difficult financial situation. This is not a reason to be ashamed, especially when the university has resources that can improve your situation. I can guarantee that the information about your financial situation will remain only and exclusively to the knowledge of the persons who administer this information. I place great emphasis on the fact that this information is specially protected. Really, I encourage you to think about social grants, to think about grants, to use the rights you have at the University of Warsaw and the benefits that you can achieve by doing so.

Student question: "My mother has been infected with the coronavirus. Due to complications, she has to take many medications that put a heavy burden on our home budget. In such a situation, could I obtain financial support at the University of Warsaw?"

Of course! Yes, in such a situation the conditions for applying for the allowance are met. Really, there is nothing to wait for. Please complete the application and submit it as soon as possible, so that you do not wait too long for the payment of the allowance.

Another question concerns psychological help: "Due to the closure of the restaurant, I lost my job. Lack of money and an unstable situation significantly affect my mood and my ability to learn. Are there any forms of support for people like me at the University?"

Yes, and I suggest you use this support. We are aware that the psychological situation is not the best. Staying at home for a long time, lack of contact with other people - it affects our mental health and our mental condition. PCC, i.e. the Psychological Counselling Centre, operates at the University of Warsaw and you can all benefit from it. In addition, we have the Office for Persons with Disabilities which will also help you, first of all directing you to the appropriate specialists. The University of Warsaw is well equipped when it comes to psychological help and I encourage you to use this help. I also guarantee that the use of such

assistance is as anonymous as possible - the information that will be provided, including the fact that you use the BON assistance, is not passed on anywhere. I remember that when I was the vice-dean for student affairs, I even resented BON that the information I received from them was anonymised and it was impossible to extract any data from them.

Now, from the vice-rector's perspective, I have a slightly different point of view. I guarantee that what goes to the BON, what goes to PCC - stays there. It is not passed on anywhere. Even if the BON prepares an opinion or applies in your case, it will not be advisable due to what the application is made. This is a guarantee of anonymity and that your problems will not be "dealt with" at the University. I encourage you to take advantage of the help that these units offer.

PSM ART students ask: "The tradition of PSM ART studies is an annual trip around the historic campus, visiting the palace complex of the University of Warsaw - these are the so-called outdoor activities promoting our Alma Mater. Can we ask for permission to conduct these classes on June 29 this year?"

These classes, as far as I understand them, are practical and here, not my consent, but the consent of the person who conducts these studies, i.e. the head of the educational unit, is necessary for such classes to take place. At most, I can persuade him to give such consent, but I will not give the consent to the head of the educational unit. I can call your dean today and say that if she could give her consent, the students would be obliged to do so.

Currently at the Faculty of Psychology in the summer semester, it is so that the lectures recorded last year were used for this semester. Is it not a significant reduction in the quality of education in a situation where the student only watches the lectures recorded in the previous academic year? After all, online classes, where you can ask questions, cannot be compared with watching recordings on YouTube.

This is the first time I hear recordings from previous years being used, so this is a question that I will verify. Does it affect the quality of education negatively? Here I would have doubts, because if the lecture was good and it was supposed to be non-interactive, it does not necessarily have a negative impact on the quality of education. However, what puzzles me is that at least I, even if the lectures are non-interactive, I always allow the possibility of asking questions in the chat or at least minimal interaction during the lecture. In such a case, it is excluded and I personally evaluate this form of proceeding negatively. I will contact the authorities of the faculty and ask about this issue.

Will the decision to conduct classroom activities (e.g. workshops) be consulted with specific groups of students? What if the student, for safety reasons - e.g. fear of infecting other household members with the virus, fear of traveling an hour by public transport -

will not want to participate in classes stationary? This is a real threat and danger in direct contact and it is probably not that the students would quit their studies?

This is the problem of finding the golden mean. In the earlier questions, there was a tendency to do these classes. You feel the need to achieve learning outcomes that can only really be achieved through activities that take place in the field, or in a classroom or laboratory. However, it is never the case that we will please everyone. There are some people who may have justified concerns about participating in such activities and, as I understand it, this is the voice of the other side. Should the heads of educational units consult decisions with students? It seems to me that they are not obliged to do so, but most, if not all, heads of didactic units consult their decisions with individual Students' Councils that operate in their units. It simply results from the good cooperation that exists there and, I suppose, if such decisions are made, such consultations will take place. It results more from custom than from applicable legal norms. However, in a situation where we have a person who does not want to participate in the classes due to health hazards, I would first of all urge such a person to go to the Office for Persons with Disabilities in order to obtain specific support. This Office also helps students who are in a difficult health situation and are not disabled within the meaning of the Act. The office may apply for a change in the way classes are organized for a specific student. Will the head of the educational unit agree to something like that? Well, that's another matter. However, you just have to talk and look for some replacement. On the other hand - I can imagine a situation in which you simply have to be during these practical classes, no substitute form will be possible due to the specificity of these classes. Then you should think about how to ensure maximum safety, fit into regimes, and not how to avoid these activities. I would ask people who have health difficulties or fear of participating in classes to try to find a compromise solution. Let it not be only on the basis that they will not come to classes, because maybe it is possible to ensure safety during these classes.

Do the authorities of the University of Warsaw have the possibility to ensure that practical classes or laboratories actually take place in fields related to strict practice?

It's not like I can tell someone something, because I have always focused on cooperation with individuals and suggesting solutions. Let us remember that the University is decentralized. We have several dozen units that provide education at the University of Warsaw and these units know their specifics best. Individual vice- deans know best when and what classes should take place. They are wondering: when should these classes be conducted? Now or wait a while? Maybe this pandemic situation will improve? They primarily think about your safety. I know that faculties such as Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Archeology or Geology are thinking about how to conduct these practical classes. And I guarantee you that these deans have it in their heads all the time and most of them will probably decide to conduct these classes. But as I said - these are their decisions, their assessment of how to conduct these activities and guarantee you maximum safety.

Will the pilot tokens for language courses, which are awarded to second-cycle students, also be awarded to students of the fourth and fifth year of uniform Master's studies?

When it comes to tokens in second-cycle studies, this is actually a pilot program. We want to provide second-cycle students with the possibility of linguistic training with the use of these tokens, that is, in fact, free training on their part. The program is a pilot program, because we want to see how popular second-cycle language courses will be. After one year of this program, we will evaluate it and decide whether we extend it or leave it as it was proposed. Maybe it will get so little interest, which I doubt this program will end. When it comes to uniform studies students, they are guaranteed tokens. If in a unit language courses can only be pursued until the third year of studies, it is a matter of discussion with the unit, so that the possibility of carrying out language courses is also transferred to higher years, so that in the fourth or fifth year, language courses can also be carried out. Very often, this obligation to complete language courses and pass the exam confirming language proficiency until the third year of studies results from concern for your safety. Here I am reminded of the history: when I was the vice-dean, there were often cases that, despite the obligation to pass the exam for the third year of studies, it was not passed on time, only in the fourth or fifth year, or someone had to repeat the year of study to pass the language exam. This third year was of such a disciplining character and the point was that there should always be some margin for later passing. If you now move this obligation to the fifth year, see what would happen if someone failed this exam in the fifth year. We do not want to allow a situation that someone will not obtain a diploma due to the fact that they would have to repeat the fifth year of studies, which is simply not possible at present. Such a person would not have graduated from the University of Warsaw. Here, too, it is about a certain balance. This is a requirement in your best interest not to have problems graduating because of the language exam. Some of you have already noticed that the language exam is not an easy exam. This is not an exam that you can take and pass without any preparation, which is often a trap for some students.

Let's stay with the certification exam, because unfortunately many people complained about the way it was carried out during the last winter session. Examples of complaints concerned information about the exam, which was not publicly available to everyone two weeks before. It was not known exactly how the test would look like. This also concerned the issue of setting the date for an oral exam in English or another language, sometimes overnight. The change could only take place upon presentation of a medical certificate. There were also complaints about more detailed issues, e.g. in the task with the essay, the examiner did not show exactly where the error was, and at the same time gave the total number of points.

Regarding the language examination, we have a Coordination Board for Language Proficiency Certification which has decided to conduct the examination remotely for the first time. As with the other subjects that you study and in which you have exams, the examiners already had experience of the exam session, because it was the second, and for some, the

third, exam session remotely. It was a debut here. These debuts are different - I do not want to say that in this case it turned out badly, because in my opinion it was not bad, but "big numbers" played. There were about 3800 students who took the exam. From what I remember, and I may be mistaken by several hundred, normally about half of the people took the exam (I'm talking about a full-time, regular exam). There was a damming up here. Due to this build-up, the organization of this exam was a bit different than what you are used to. Due to the fact that I was informed about the problems by the Students' Council, I contacted prof. Kucharczyk and asked what the situation was. First of all, I was interested in the issue of sick leaves and how many of these deadlines were postponed due to the sick leaves. From the last information I got from the professor, there were over 800 such postponements, so it's not like postponing this oral exam was impossible. No, there were a lot of these shifts, especially when you take into account the number of people who took this exam.

However, the inability to choose the date - it was actually not a good solution. The information I have obtained indicates that this solution with assigning the exam date was due to the fact that there were actually a large number of people and these registrations could not be selected. I asked the professor to make such a choice in the case of the implementation of the next certification exam remotely. The professor said there would be no problem and it would be done.

In conclusion: I know it wasn't perfect, but I would be far from pointing out that this remote exam went wrong. I would definitely be very far from indicating that the grades you received for this exam were worse than the grades for stationary exams, because from what I saw, the pass rate for at least the first part was within 90%, when it was normally within 60%. This remote form of the examination resulted in a high pass rate. However, if someone feels hurt and thinks that the organization was not optimal, I can only apologize and say that it will be better next time.

A question from an international student: "I took a dean's leave, but I would like to change its date. I wrote the wrong start date in my application - is it possible to change this date? It is because of my military service in my country. "

Yes, it is possible, but please contact the head of the educational unit directly, because here he can make such a decision in this matter.

One more question from an international student: "Is it possible to carry out at least one or two full-time classes? My home university will not approve the year if the classes are entirely remote. "

I have the impression that we have already answered this question by answering other questions. In the case of practical classes, it is possible, and here the head of the educational unit decides, but we have such and not other regulations in Poland and we cannot be responsible for what regulations France has. I hope that we will find a way that will solve

your problem, but here I really suggest you contact the head of the educational unit and determine with him whether there is any possibility of recognizing or conducting stationary classes in your case.

Have you heard of the exam in Introduction to Legal Studies, which according to some students was definitely not reliable because of the 30-second answer time, and the questions were so extensive that it took them that long just to read them. Is it OK to be assessed in this way - not really knowledge, but rather the ability to read quickly?

I have not heard of an exam at the Faculty of Law on Introduction to Legal Studies. This is the first time I am hearing of such a form of examination. Of course, I would be happy to talk to Dr. Bielecki, who is the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law and Administration, but I suggest that you address such issues directly to the head of the educational unit, because these are matters that are under his supervision.

Are extramural students also likely to return to stationary study mode? Most have already given up on renting a flat or dormitory in Warsaw and returned to their family home, especially since the summer semester was announced. Also, travelling from another city every fortnight during a pandemic is hard to do without danger.

I do not know whether we have understood each other correctly. Teaching in the semester that has started today, as far as classes are concerned, is conducted remotely, so I wouldn't worry about arrivals and travels. If the heads of the educational units come to the conclusion that classes should be conducted on a stationary basis, this will be preceded by consultations with us, and it will depend on the Rector's decision on amending the regulation and the scope of amending this regulation, as well as indicating who should come to the University. However, this depends, above all, on the improvement of the pandemic situation in Poland, and let us be honest, it does not look particularly good at present - that is one thing. And two - it also depends on consultations and on whether students will be ready for such a return, because we are aware of the fact that you do not rent flats in Warsaw, that you would have to come, it is difficult. If I were a Vice-Dean and I had to decide which students would come back first, I would give priority to students who study continuously, from Monday to Friday, and I would "force" extramural students to come back at the very end. I would advise calmness and getting used to the idea that this education in the summer term will rather be in the remote mode.

Another question: "I would very much like to study education management at postgraduate level. When will this be possible at UW?"

When such a course will be introduced to the offer of post-graduate studies, if there is no such course, because I am not able to verify this.

Question from a foreign candidate: "I am from Indonesia and I would like to study at UW, in this regard I have three questions. Can Indonesians study at the UW? I graduated from an Islamic boarding school, can I be a UW student and is there any scholarship for foreigners?"

Foreigners can study at the University of Warsaw, regardless of which country they are from. Also, it is not important for us whether the school you graduated from had a religious character or not. Similarly, your religion is absolutely irrelevant to us - these are irrelevant issues from the point of view of studying at the University of Warsaw. All I can say is that we welcome you. As far as scholarships for foreigners are concerned, yes, we have various forms of support, but it depends on individual issues.

Why has the fee for staying in student halls not been reduced for this academic year? This was the case last year.

First and foremost this is because the fees are already at a relatively low level and because student halls are run and maintained by the University of Warsaw, and the fee only covers a certain part of the cost of running them. If you consider that there are 832 people in the dormitories today, and that at the time when we did not have the pandemic there were more than 2000 people, then these fees are still de facto 1/3 of the fees that were paid before. We cannot bring about a situation in which we reduce the fees and, in fact, we will not have any money to keep the dormitories open, and they will simply have to be closed down. We don't want to do that, and it's a sad compromise - the dormitories are operating, the University is subsidising their operation, while we've had to keep the fees at the same level they were, despite the fact that they were reduced last year. This reduction had a very negative effect on the University's finances.

What are students supposed to do if they have not done the required ECTS credits for OGUNs by the end of 3rd or 5th year?

This is a broader problem. The problem is reported by the heads of educational units, who very often face difficult decisions concerning the necessity for students to repeat a year due to the lack of fulfillment of OGUN requirement, or due to the lack of fulfillment of B2+ system (at least one course in a foreign language). Sometimes students forget about this requirement, they sign up for other subjects, forget about OGUNs, forget about this subject in a foreign language. These are really human tragedies, when someone has to repeat the last year precisely because a general university lecture or a lecture in a foreign language was not delivered, and someone has, for example, a Prof in English (C2 Proficiency), and this one thing was forgotten. Here, together with the Vice-Deans, we came to the conclusion that we will enrich the teaching offer and make it possible to hold general university lectures and some lectures in a foreign language right during the summer break. As you know, the

academic year ends on 30 September, so June, July, August or September is still the time when classes can be completed, and it is possible to make up this requirement without having to repeat the year. I think this is a nice solution. In fact, I asked the Students' Council Board whether they accept such an idea, and the Board was very warm and enthusiastic about it, and I can't hide the fact that it helps a lot with the implementation of these OGUNs.

This is something we want to introduce, something we hope will help students fulfil their duties, duties that are sometimes forgotten.

That was the last question. Would the Professor like to say anything else to the students?

Ladies and Gentlemen, I can only ask you to stay healthy and not to worry. This pandemic madness will end one day. I would like to appeal once again for you to take a favourable view of the scholarships which are available at University of Warsaw. I am thinking of those social scholarships and allowance aid - so that you will not be reluctant to make use of the aid which is available to you, because this also makes it possible for other students, or for you to make use of the aid in the form of academic scholarships.

It would be good if you recognised this scholarship system at the University. I remember there was information on the Students' Council Facebook page about how these scholarships look, what these proportions look like, how it's calculated. Take a look at this! This is the knowledge that can be useful to you. These are rights that you can simply use. Remember also about the Psychological Counselling Centre and the Office for Persons with Disabilities, because these are the units for getting real help when you feel worse, when you have difficulties, and to be directed to people who can help you overcome these difficulties.

That is all for now. Thank you very much for your time and see you again.