Statement Digital Exams
To the Executive Board & Students of Tilburg University

Because of the Covid-19 virus, we live in strange times. The way we normally do things is completely turned upside down. This means that the university is forced to digitize quickly. A lot of improvements have already been made and we like to thank all the people who are working really hard to make this possible.

Digital exams

We understand the exams have to be taken digitally. However, we heard a lot of concerns from students about these digital exams. Students have to download software to take these exams. Without it, they are not allowed to take exams, but the following problems occur:

Equal opportunities for students

Not all students have access to a good PC/Laptop. If the hardware on the PC is insufficient or the software is too old, the university won't help you. They state that you should borrow one from your friends, family, or roommates. But not everybody has this opportunity and you can't expect students to buy a new PC. This creates an inequality between students with sufficient resources and those who cannot afford or lend a new computer. Also the WiFi isn't great in lots of student dorms, what if a piece of recording is missing because of failing WiFi? All students should have the same opportunity in their studies.

Privacy

Lots of students have concerns about their privacy. Proctorio enables the surveillance to watch the students, their room and the rest of their computer screen. These recordings are not anonymous. Students do not feel at ease downloading this "spy software" voluntarily onto their PC. A big part of our lives now take place on our computers, also parts you do not always want to be seen by a random person, so this is a valid concern. There are also stories amongst students, that this enables the university to see your files and downloads, which is surely a breach of privacy.

Study Delay

Students are afraid of study delay because of the concerns above. If you don't have a good laptop; you can't take the exams. If you have concerns about your privacy; you don't want to take the exams. Various different reasons such as concentration- not every student has a quiet place in their homes- also contribute to their concerns. We do not want an approximate half year of study delay for a big group of students, so it is time for action!

What we want from Tilburg University

Student party SAM wants Tilburg University to take concrete actions to take away these problems. We do not want a whole generation of students with study delay because of COVID-19.
- ALL students should have an equal opportunity to take their exams.
- The University should communicate clearly about the new measures.
- The University should ensure and respect the privacy of the students