

## Press Release

### New leadership at International University SDI München

**Munich, January 13, 2021** – Prof. Florian Feuser has been named the new President of the International University and Director of the SDI München. He succeeds Prof. Felix Mayer, who stepped down after 20 years as President; Feuser has been acting President and Director since October 2020.

Florian Feuser's strategic focus will be to expand programs to meet the needs of students by developing digital teaching formats and intensifying partnerships with the corporate sector. As intercultural communication, one of the strengths of the International University, is key to corporate success, both students as well as businesses will benefit from these partnerships.

Feuser brings to this role proven leadership skills, a clear concept for shaping the future of the University and the SDI, as well as strong academic and professional qualifications. Consisting of a vocational college and a professional college, the SDI trains students to become multilingual administrative assistants, translators and interpreters. The International University offers bachelor's and master's degree programs focusing on business, communications and media, in combination with languages. Taken together, these institutions cooperate to provide a broad range of educational opportunities encompassing academic as well as practical skills.

After a rigorous hiring process, Prof. Feuser was chosen by a selection committee and his nomination was subsequently confirmed by the Board of Trustees and the existing administration. The registered association of the SDI elected Florian Feuser with an overwhelming majority as President and Director. The Academic Senate then unanimously confirmed his election on December 23, 2020.

"I sincerely appreciate the confidence which has been placed in me and in my strategic vision for the International University and the SDI. The tasks which we face are both challenging and exciting," said Feuser upon his election.

Prof. Dieter Liepsch, Chair of both the Selection Committee and the Board of Trustees, along with the Chair of the Registered Association, Prof. Marita Tjarks-Sobhani, concur that Prof. Feuser, with his openness to change and his in-depth knowledge of the institute, will be an excellent leader, who will take an innovative approach to building on the strengths of the International University and the SDI.

## **SDI München**

The SDI München is a center of expertise for intercultural communication. Founded in 1951 on the initiative of nine young translators and interpreters, the SDI has developed into one of Germany's most renowned educational institutions for translators and interpreters. Since the founding of the International University in 2007, the SDI München has provided the opportunity for secondary school leavers to pursue education up to the master's level. The SDI trains students to become multilingual administrative assistants at its vocational college (BFS) and state-certified translators and interpreters at its professional college (FAK). The International University offers bachelor's and master's degree programs in fields relating to business, communications and media, in combination with languages.

Excellence in teaching and individual attention are the hallmarks of the SDI, where all of the educational programs are state accredited. With international students and teaching staff from over 70 countries, as well as partnerships with universities from around the world, the SDI campus is an intercultural hub. In addition, on-campus residence in SDI housing is available to all students.

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