

Jetzt:

We demand enough funding!

The HGB Academy of Fine Arts does not receive sufficient basic funding. The school is unable to ensure proper quality of teaching in all its departments. Much-needed purchases or repairs can barely be made.

Despite the strong economic growth in Saxony, the yearly rate of increase of our budget still remains below the average rate of academies overall, which is already low. Additionally it consistently remains below the rate of inflation. While from 2017 to 2018 wages saw an increase of 2.35%, the Academy's budget increase amounted to less than 2%. Considering proportionally large personnel costs, this can only lead to a reduction of the operative budget: The so-called increases are therefore actually reductions.

The HGB is repeatedly obliged to meet huge expenses — the purchase of software and hardware for the purposes of administration, budget audits by external accountants, etc. Even though some of those expenses are the result of implementations of legal readjustments, they are not compensated by the Saxon Ministry for Science and Art (SMWK).

Due to target agreements resulting in sanctions, the operative budget of the HGB has considerably decreased. The target agreements are an instrument of political control which, since its introduction, has been repeatedly criticised by academies and universities for its counterproductivity.

Next to basic funding, the HGB receives special allocations. Though that sounds advantageous, it is quite problematic. This specific form of subsidizing does not enable any long-term planning: We generally don't know timely when an allocation will be made, nor how high it will be. Because of their unpredictability, they are often not useful in terms of timing or administration. Special allocations are tied to intended purposes, which in turn restrict our freedom to operate.

To guarantee the sustainable quality of the HGB and to enable inevitable, up-to-date modernizations, an additional investment of approximately €250.000 per year is needed in the coming four years!

We demand more jobs!

Due to an outdated calculation of salaries for the existing positions at the HGB, they are no longer fully funded. As the Ministry won't improve its financing, posts will either stay unmanned, or the corresponding resources will have to be cut in other departments of the academy.

For instance: for quite some time now — and still up until Fall 2020 — a highly paid professorship in a workshop is kept vacant, to be able to implement administrative changes. Even though these changes are commanded by the Ministry, they are not sufficiently compensated.

The SMWK repeatedly imposes new tasks to be fulfilled by our staff and tutors, without increasing the funding for these jobs. These requirements include a commission for equality, inclusion and internationalisation. Also imposed are increasing reporting requirements as well as new forms of management, such as controlling, quality and risk management, etc. Some of these demands are certainly useful, but they can only be implemented at the cost of putting our staff under strain, thus reducing their time and energy for teaching.

Nine additional jobs should be created, merely to compensate for the overwork of employees at the academy.

We demand enough space!

In some departments of the HGB, there's a chronic lack of space, which hinders the students from working effectively. The calculation of the need of student-spaces dates from the 1990s, whilst current necessities are not taken into account. For instance, more than 30 students in the Class for Installation and Space have to share a 70m² atelier.

As a result, lots of students are forced to rent a private studio, which turns this lack into a concealed study fee, exacerbated by the fact that the rent- and living-costs are constantly going up. Resulting from this more and more students need to work on the side, giving them less time to commit to their studies. Consequently, the standard period of study is often being exceeded, which in turn leads to sanctions for the Academy as part of the target agreement it signed.

There is a need for approximately 1500m², only as a result of the increase in numbers of students since 1997. This does not take into account contemporary standards for the space required for art students.

The current form of financing jeopardises equality of opportunity: low-income students are unequally burdened with a private compensation for this structural deficit; under current conditions, their artistic work and study is rendered impossible if they cannot afford it!

We demand dialogue on equal terms!

The target agreements are a penalty system and are based on quantified criteria that aren't useful for an (art) academy. Competition and efficiency are not the logics on which artistic learning and research can be organized and evaluated!

In its current realization, the so-called freedom of the academy is a corset, tightened by financial allocations, regulations and controls. It is enforced by political pressure (such as the threat of forced administration by the Ministry in case the target negotiation fails), as well as the supposed "non-existence of alternatives".

Our particular concerns and the societal value of cultural production need to be recognised through a political dialogue on equal terms, where solutions need to be developed together.

The HGB will practice its autonomy in line with its educational tasks, even in contradiction to target agreements and despite the financial risks!

We insist on our autonomy, guaranteed by the constitution, Article 5, Paragraph 3!