

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE FACULTY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2025 TO 30 JUNE 2027

Dean candidate: Assoc. Prof. Dr **Boris Jerman**, BSc Mech. Eng.

1. Introduction

Vision: The Faculty should remain a leading institution in the field of mechanical engineering in the region, with a focus on excellence in education, research and co-operation with industry. At the same time, to create a supportive, relaxed and encouraging working environment where good interpersonal relationships are the foundation for success. I am committed to creating an environment where colleagues and students can realise their full potential while receiving support that enables them to balance their professional and personal lives.

I strive for the Faculty to become a model of a family-friendly institution that values the well-being of all its members. I envision the Faculty as a place where every individual — whether teacher, researcher, student or staff member — contributes to collective excellence.

Mission: To strengthen engineering knowledge, promote sustainable solutions and improve international recognition. Ensure equal treatment of all members of the academic community (including teaching, research and administrative staff and students). Fostering trust and respect among colleagues with the aim of creating a more efficient and friendly working environment.

2. Main directions and objectives

The Faculty has a valid working and development strategy, which I consider appropriate and to which no significant changes are required. However, we will review it carefully and accelerate its implementation where there are potential delays and propose adjustments where necessary.

2.1 Excellence in education

Ensuring educational excellence must be a top priority. I assume that no fundamental changes to degree programmes will be necessary in the upcoming term, apart from the continuous updating of individual courses by incorporating new findings and contemporary topics (sustainability, digitalisation, artificial intelligence) and promoting innovative teaching methods (hybrid learning, project-based work in collaboration with industry).

It is crucial to support the stability of the teaching process and to ensure the greatest possible continuity of teaching staff for the individual courses. In this context, discussions should be held with teaching staff about the criteria and requirements for course leadership.

In addition, the reasons for the relatively long average study times should be analysed and appropriate measures taken in consultation with students and teaching staff.

In order to further improve the quality of the learning process and study conditions, more use should be made of student feedback.

2.2 Research excellence and collaboration with industry

In recent years, the Faculty has experienced significant growth in both the quality and quantity of its research activities and has in some ways reached the limits of its current capabilities. I support the further development and expansion of research, while recognising the spatial and other constraints and the interaction between teaching and research activities. In this context, I will explore the possibility of jointly renting additional research space, which would free up the Faculty's premises for reuse in teaching (better timetabling) and in the study areas.

During my tenure, I will continue to promote interdisciplinary research projects involving multiple labs and institutions. In addition, I will work to ensure that the contributions of all project participants are appropriately recognised in the Faculty's Special Conditions for Academic Promotion.

2.3 International engagement

The Faculty has solid international collaborations in both education and research. During my term, I will endeavour to maintain and expand these partnerships, in particular through appropriate support activities.

3. Organisation and internal improvements

3.1 Human resources policy

Support younger educators and researchers in accelerating their career development, including appropriate adjustments to the Faculty's Special Conditions for Academic Promotion. I intend to involve interested faculty members in the preparation of these adjustments, including the possibility of voting among those directly concerned.

I emphasise the importance of positive incentives for the best researchers and lecturers (financial rewards, recognition and similar measures).

3.2 Funding

The Faculty's financial situation is stable and I do not foresee any major changes in this respect. However, there is a risk of a possible decline in research funding due to internal and external factors. I intend to develop an appropriate support strategy. During my term, I will also examine how internal costs can be optimised.

3.3 New faculty building

During my term, we will continue all activities related to securing funding and starting construction of the new faculty building as soon as possible.

3.4 Organisational structure

I consider the organisational structure of the Faculty to be appropriate and see no need for major changes.

I will advocate cautious and thoughtful changes to the Faculty's internal regulations that ensure a sufficiently long "public" discussion so that fast-track procedures remain the exception. This approach is more demanding, but in my opinion the only right one.

4. Conclusion

The focus of the coming term of office will be on collaboration between all stakeholders at the Faculty: students, staff, industry and society. I am committed to transparency, innovation and sustainability in faculty operations and want to foster the best possible relationships between colleagues. I will endeavour to reach a broad consensus on important decisions. Naturally, I am prepared to adapt my programme to new challenges and opportunities.

With a clear vision and the co-operation of all faculty members, I will work for the long-term stability and development of our institution. I invite you to work together for excellence, recognition and a family- and employee-friendly Faculty of Mechanical Engineering!

Ljubljana, 23 January 2025

Assoc. Prof. Dr **Boris Jerman**, BSc Mech. Eng.

