

New Year's Reception 2021 | Greetings by the Mayor of Potsdam

Film Transcript

Mayor Mike Schubert

Dear Professor Günther,
dear ladies and gentlemen,

as an alumni of this university, I was delighted to be invited to speak again at this year's New Year's Reception. I regret all the more that I will not be able to meet you in person. I am sure that a year ago none of us could have imagined that a pandemic would change our lives so fundamentally and so permanently, and this applies to both our professional and private lives.

As mayor, I have been moving daily in the area of tension between fighting the crisis, health protection and on the other hand restricting civil liberties since the beginning of the pandemic. A permanent, difficult balancing act. Suddenly I am confronted with questions that otherwise play less of a role in local politics. How do you deal with the death of people? What can I influence as mayor at all? How do you deal with wrong decisions? I am glad that I can rely on the advice of the administrative staff in this regard. In addition, the scientific advice is an important support for the upcoming decisions, but also for their legitimacy. Fortunately, in Potsdam city and science have been in close discourse for four years now. And I am very happy that they are in such close exchange with the University of Potsdam. In addition, there are ideas to further strengthen the dialog between science, business, politics and society as the transfer of knowledge in urban society. The University of Potsdam also plays a major role in this, and I look forward to further developing our ideas together with you.

Ladies and gentlemen, there is a chance that we will be able to end the pandemic this year and academic life will be possible again. The University of Potsdam has managed this particular situation well so far. I wish you continued creativity, courage and perseverance and look forward to meeting you in person again soon.