

22 June 2022

Directors of Zurich Dance Academy resign from offices

Oliver Matz and Steffi Scherzer are temporarily resigning from their positions at Zurich Dance Academy. This is their reaction to the ongoing administrative investigation and the resulting pressure on all members of the TaZ. The step was taken in agreement with the University Board of ZHdK and is intended to ensure the smooth continued operation of the TaZ for the students.

Based on the current media coverage of the allegations surrounding Zurich Dance Academy, the President of ZHdK has initiated an administrative investigation. The independent law firm Rudin Cantieni Rechtsanwälte has been commissioned with the investigation, which is intended to clarify the facts transparently and completely through hearings with those affected as well as external experts. Ensuring the physical and psychological integrity of the students and the undisturbed course of their education are among the top priorities of all parties involved.

Conducting the administrative investigation is a great burden and challenge for the TaZ management team, the TaZ employees and the ongoing operations of the school. In order not to jeopardize the ongoing educational operations, Oliver Matz and Steffi Scherzer have mutually agreed with the University Board of ZHdK on a temporary suspension in office. This means that both the management of the school and the teaching duties will be taken over by other persons on an interim basis.

This measure does not prejudge the results of the administrative investigation, which are not expected to be available until the end of the first quarter of 2023 over the course of the coming months.

Steffi Scherzer and Oliver Matz explain: "We made this decision with a heavy heart. We want to protect the institution and create an environment for the students in which they can concentrate on their education at TaZ. As soon as the results of the administrative investigation are available, we will decide together with the representatives of the ZHdK on the next steps." A successor for the lectureship of Steffi Scherzer, who will retire due to age on July 31, 2022, has already been determined for some time.

In consideration of personal rights and with reference to the employer's duty of care, the ZHdK will not provide any further information on this matter until the administrative investigation has been completed.