

September, 2013

Rektorat Universität Zürich, FAO Prof. Dr. Andreas Fischer  
Dekanat Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Fakultät Universität Zürich, FAO

- Dean, Prof. Dr. Harald Gall
- Deanery management
- Tenured professors

### **Demand for critical teaching at the department of economic sciences at the University of Zurich**

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a committee consisting of students studying economics as a minor or major subject we address ourselves to the department of economic sciences of the University of Zurich. By doing so, we as immediately affected students would like to substantially evaluate the lecture courses and call attention to the urgent need to reform. This letter supports several already existing appeals published at home and abroad. Furthermore, it raises some other very important issues which we would like to discuss. Finally, all students are asked to support our demands by signing this letter.

Enclosed to this writing you will find a formulated multilateral argumentation and explanation of the following points.

The committee demands:

- alternative economic models and studies should have an equal status in the curriculum
- models that are presented and prioritised in teaching should describe a more 'practical relevance'. Abstractions made for scientific theories may not ex ante lead to assumptions which do not withstand empirical examination
- the willingness to tackle socio-economic problems in class should be integrated in the decision-making process when appointing new professorships
- know-how and experience from other areas of expertise should be considered when discussing complex economic questions
- teaching and research of economics should bear social responsibility and assume this responsibility accordingly

As students we expect the University and its teaching staff to perform the task of critically and independently evaluating scientific models. Moreover, we expect them to pass this evaluation process on to their students. After all, an advanced dialogue within, among and beyond the various departments should be seen as one of the University's clear objectives.

The committee, the signatories and all supporting organisations, societies and institutions ask the department of economics to examine, discuss and ultimately implement the items mentioned above. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions or would like to discuss the matter with us.

Yours faithfully

The committee