



AStA of the University of Lüneburg ~ AStA spokespersons
Universitätsallee 1, 21335 Lüneburg, Building 9

AStA spokespersons

Elisabeth Tacke (she/he)
Josephine Kiecol (she/he)
Johannes Rathjens (he/him)
Marius Michel (he/they)

Homepage:
asta-lueneburg.de/speakers

e-mail:
sprecherinnen@asta-lueneburg.de

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Student outrage at the cancellation of dies academicus 2024

On 3 July, Lüneburg should have hosted the Dies Academicus, the university's annual summer party with a ceremony and academic award ceremonies. This year, however, there was a lot of fuss about the guests in the run-up to the event: Jessica Schülke (MdL) and Frank Rinck (MdB) from the AfD had announced their attendance. They had each been invited via offices connected to Lüneburg and/or academia and not as AfD politicians - their invitation nevertheless met with resistance, particularly from students. "We made it clear to the university that we don't think it's appropriate to invite politicians from a party that denies scientific facts and spreads misanthropic positions," says AStA spokesperson Elisabeth Tacke. The AStA (General Students' Committee) had spoken out to the university in favour of excluding the AfD from the event.

However, those responsible there saw no opportunity to do so, as they had, for example, invited the entire science committee of the state parliament, which is chaired by Jessica Schülke. "In any case, the university management made it easy for themselves and actively avoided a confrontation on the content. The fact that a voluntary group of students had organised a rally that few organisations, including ver.di, had previously commented on, led them to speak of a security risk for the event," says Marius Michel, another AStA spokesperson. An assessment that the speakers and the rally planning team consider to be completely exaggerated. Just like the decision to cancel a highlight of the year for the university community without replacement. Nevertheless, the process is now to be reviewed with the various status groups, as the email

announcing President Spoun's cancellation states. In view of the numerous signatories of an open letter against the participation of the AfD, which was circulated within the university, there is definitely a need for such a reappraisal. The extent to which the students and their representatives will really have their say in this process remains to be seen.

Further positioning of the student body on the topic:

Television [programme](#)

Radio [report](#)