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Ihr Zeichen : Ihre Nachricht vom: Unser Zeichen :

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## **Open Letter: FAU's Physics Department stands behind Gerd Schröder-Turk**

Concerning recent media reports of court action between Murdoch University and Dr Gerd Schröder-Turk, FAU's Department of Physics unanimously stands with Dr Gerd Schröder-Turk and urges Murdoch University to drop its legal action.

With almost 40 000 students, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) is one of Germany's largest research universities with many international students and researchers. FAU's outstanding research and teaching is reflected in top positions in both national and international rankings. Teaching at the University is closely linked to research and focuses on training students in both theory and practice to enable them to think critically and work independently. FAU's Department of Physics is proud to have had Dr Gerd Schröder-Turk as a faculty member and has always valued his well-measured opinions and respectful manner.

In order to maintain the highest academic standards, it is essential that transparent and productive dialogue across all levels of the education sector continues to be part of the accepted pursuit of excellence. The Department therefore strongly defends the right of staff and students to respectfully question our academic organisation in order to pursue excellence in research and education and to maintain the highest academic standards, and it has strongly benefited from such open dialogue in the past.

Jö/n Wilms, speaker of the department

cc:

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