

The action of the Vice-chancellor could not be predicted

Upsala Nya Tidning 2007-06-26

Two professors of mathematics at Uppsala University were, under close to tumultuous forms, earlier this year pressured by the university administration to resign from their positions. The action of the university administration in this case is unacceptable. Through neglect from the side of the employer, the problem with the work environment at the Department of Mathematics was allowed to completely deteriorate. Then one acted, as it seems next to irrationally, without awaiting the result from the work environment investigation, which finally nevertheless had been initiated. One of the two professors was a member of the Swedish Association of University Teachers, Sulf. A biased account of the action of the association was given in a radio newscast (Radio Uppland 7/6). At the beginning of January the university informed that a disciplinary case was initiated against the two professors and that one had the intention to summon the University Disciplinary Board. The local chairman of the association, in consultation with the association lawyer, made the judgement that the disciplinary board of the university did not have the possibility to take up a case of this kind but that in such case it must be heard by the State Disciplinary Board, which he also conveyed to the university administration. In accordance with the routines of the association he decided at that stage to wait and not to contact the member until it was clear if the university nevertheless intended to try to pursue the case in the disciplinary board of the university.

After the fact it is easy to say that an early contact with the member had been appropriate, but the unprecedented action by the vice-chancellor at the meetings, on one and the same day, that lead to the resignation of the two professors, had hardly been possible to predict.

When the outcome of the meetings with the vice-chancellor became known to the association and its management, representatives for Sulf centrally had a meeting at the central office of the association in Stockholm with the one

of the two professors that was a member of the association, together with a colleague, and discussed what had happened. Sulf has as a direct result of that meeting until now refrained from publicly commenting the case.

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