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UFV 2007/317

Uppsala, March 21, 2007

President  
European Mathematical Society  
Professor Ari Laptev  
Department of Mathematics  
Imperial College London  
180 Queen's Gate  
London SW7 2AZ  
United Kingdom

Dear Professor Laptev,

In your letter of February 27, you ask for the background of the events leading to the resignation of two professors of mathematics at Uppsala University.

In November 2006, I called for a report on the work environment in the Department of Mathematics, having previously been alerted that there were serious conflicts under way. The preliminary findings of the report stated that the two persons at hand had committed repeated offences of misbehaviour.

The details warranted that a formal caution be issued in each respective case. It is indeed the Vice-Chancellor's duty to follow this line of action. The two professors were instructed that further misbehaviour could constitute grounds for dismissal. They were asked to take this caution seriously and further encouraged to cooperate in the task of improving the working environment of the department.

*After having been formally cautioned, the two professors tendered their resignations.* In the best interests of all concerned, I decided that the university should disburse a reasonable terminal settlement. The two parties accepted this settlement.

The grounds for the caution must remain confidential with regards to the personal integrity of the two professors and of other persons involved. It must be stressed that the aim of the final report is to find ways of improving the working environment for the staff and faculty and to secure a long-term stability that furthers research and teaching in the department.

Yours sincerely,

Anders Hallberg  
Vice-Chancellor