

The Vice-Chancellor gets support in the math conflict

The newly elected director of the Department of Mathematics at Uppsala University, the prefect Maciej Klimek, defends now the disputed action of the Vice-Chancellor Anders Hallberg against the two professors who were pressed to leave their chairs. Maciej Klimek says that professors Oleg Viro and Burglind Jöricke thought that they themselves could rule over the Department of Mathematics.

- They became very disappointed when they understood that the University wanted to act in the same way as it had had for many years here in Uppsala, says Maciej Klimek.

Last year Klimek became a temporary prefect for the Department of Mathematics and quite recently he was appointed a prefect for the next three years. He says that he himself met the attitude of professors Viro and Jöricke which was the reason for the action of the Vice-Chancellor:

- One of them visited me and said that if the Department did not behave as he wanted, he would split it. The other professor formulated similar demands and said that several professors would quit if the Department were not to be run as she wished, says Maciej Klimek.

Klimek says that the conflict is not about science but that it lies in a personal plane. The question is then why the University leadership has had such a difficulty to demonstrate to the public an evidence against the professors.

- The evidence is obvious to all who have worked here those last years. All have got these e-mails, all have lived through that time. The University leadership has collected the evidence which was necessary to take action, says Maciej Klimek, who points out that he has now got wide support to lead the Department.

Reporter Marten Nilsson

Radio Uppland June 22, 2007

Unauthorized translation.