

A lot has happened lately on the subject of university teaching positions, which is a subject very important to us. We are very pleased that the ministry has finally put forward a proposal about the recruitment position. Better late than never. According to the proposal the position should be for four years and may be applied for within seven years of dissertation. This latter aspect is important and something the faculty has been arguing for. I believe that with the seven year period of eligibility this position can become the primary recruitment path to tenured positions in the future. Opportunities for promotion will not be specified in the Ordinance. But this is something that can be decided locally by the universities. A tenure-track system based on this type of position will be possible. Different universities will have different ways of acting and we will not have a nationwide system. At Stockholm University there is strong support for the opportunity for promotion. My opinion is that we should definitely have such an opportunity, but that comprehensive testing of scientific and teaching skills should be applied. Local provisions governing promotion opportunities must be developed. It is intended that the recruitment positions will be introduced from January 2013 onwards. This means that the departments can already plan to use these positions and that advertising of these can begin during the autumn.

In the previous newsletter I commented on the long discussions the Board of the Faculty held before finally deciding to support the announcement of an adjunct position. (I would like to reassert that this is a new type of adjunct position with no possibility to promotion to other teaching positions.) These positions may only be used under special circumstances and the advertising of such a position is decided by the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor has now rejected the departmental request to advertise the position.

The University Board has changed the regulations governing promotion from research scientist to professor. According to the previous regulations a research scientist was entitled to promotion if he or she fulfilled the defined criteria for promotion (which were the same as for lecturers). These regulations were unworkable and we were the only university in the country to have them. This would have meant that the recruitment of professors from scientific research positions could have happened without the strategic efforts and long-term undertakings involved in the announcement of a lectureship or a professorship position. According to the new Employment Ordinance research scientists will have their right to apply for promotion examined. The examination will take into account the strategic and long-term needs of the subject areas. If approved the research scientist can then apply for promotion in the same way as a lecturer.

Several major and important issues are being discussed and will be decided during the autumn, including the funding of PhD students and the future location of the Stockholm Resilience Center. We are also discussing the organisation of Baltic Sea research within the Faculty of Science. In the autumn there will also be the government research bill, with decisions including those concerning SciLifeLab. At the end of August the candidates for the Vice-Chancellor position will be announced, as Kåre Bremer's term ends at the end of January 2013.

Before that, however, there is time for holidays, relaxation and other activities. I would like to thank you all for this semester and wish you a very enjoyable summer!

Anders