

Research and education should be closely connected. Teachers at the University should have good research opportunities. Lecturers and professors should, financed by appropriation funds, devote a significant proportion of their time to research.

The above is a quotation from Stockholm University's forthcoming policy document. Professors should have at least 40%, and lecturers at least 30%, of their research time financed by the University through appropriation funds. In addition, external funds are often used to finance additional research time for teachers through so-called "buy-outs". In such cases, the proportion of research financed by appropriation funds should not be reduced.

The University Administration is undergoing important changes. A new Director of Administration, Joakim Malmström, has taken office and been superseded as Head of the Strategic Planning Office by Susanne Thedéen, formerly Åsa Borin's counterpart in the humanities and social sciences. These are excellent appointments of individuals who have demonstrated their skills within the organisation. Two important studies commissioned by the Vice-Chancellor have been presented: one on construction issues and one on collaboration. When it comes to construction, we have very big problems, as the study reveals in a terrifying way. This operation will be moved from its secluded spot in the Technical Support Office to a new unit directly under the Director of Administration, and a new property manager will be recruited. Considering that rents are one of our biggest items of expenditure and that we are facing major construction projects in Albano and renovations in Frescati, this operation must maintain the highest quality. The study on collaboration has just been presented. The analyst adopts a broad perspective on the present Communications Office and External Relations Office and proposes they be merged into one – an interesting proposal that will now go out for consultation.

At the Faculty we have the Bergius Botanic Garden, whose director is Professor Bergianus, currently Birgitta Bremer, who is employed by the Bergius Foundation and conducts her research at the University. The foundation is managed by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and the Professor Bergianus is employed there. This is a complicated relationship, but we have now reached an agreement with the Academy to announce a professorship and recruit a successor to Birgitta.

We have now finalised this year's nominations for the Wallenberg Academy Fellows. Stockholm University has been very successful in this programme, and this year's nominees look very strong. I urge everyone to keep working to find new candidates, particularly strong external candidates, which we nearly did not have enough of last year.

The government's efforts to secure funding for the European Spallation Source (ESS) are now entering the final stage. The construction cost is estimated at SEK 15-20 billion and the operating cost at SEK 1.5-2 billion/year. Construction is scheduled to start this summer. If this proceeds without securing international funding for construction and operation, this project is at risk of becoming a cuckoo in the nest of Swedish research.

Anders