

We are currently in a period of change within the University Administration. A new property unit is being created directly under the Director of Administration, and the recruitment of a new property manager is in its final stages. A new collaboration unit will also be created, which will include the present units for external relations, communication, and strategic partnerships. The overall aim of these changes is to create an administration that collaborates with the core activities, teaching and research, in the best way possible.

Within the Faculty, work is under way to create a new department of environmental science comprising ITM, analytical chemistry, environmental chemistry from MMK, and radiation biology from MBW. We are hoping for this work to be completed by the end of the year.

The Swedish Research Council has taken the initiative to establish a reference group for discussions on infrastructure of national interest. The group includes one person from each of the eleven big research universities (and one representative from SUHF). This is excellent. There has been a lack of communication with, and between, the universities in these matters. All universities have identified the national infrastructure they are responsible for, as well as the needs they see for new infrastructure. This comprehensive list of needs will now be processed, and priorities will eventually be made. The representatives from KI, KTH, UU, and SU in the reference group will meet to discuss opportunities for regional collaboration on infrastructure in addition to the national infrastructure. The Stockholm region is home to a very large proportion of the total research in Sweden. We should have excellent opportunities for regional collaboration on valuable infrastructure. Much of the responsibility for funding infrastructure now lies with the universities. Within the Faculty, the main principle is that infrastructure should be funded by the department where it is used. In several cases where infrastructure has a wider use, the Faculty has established Core Facilities and contributed financial support.

A major planned investment in infrastructure that has not been discussed to the extent that it should is the European Spallation Source (ESS). Together with the Vice-Chancellor, I published an article in *Sydsvenskan* in an attempt to draw attention to the issue. *Sydsvenskan* has good coverage of ESS, but little has otherwise been said about this SEK 18 billion project with an estimated annual operating cost of SEK 1.5 billion.

The University has had a visit from Lars Hultman, CEO of the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF). Compared to other universities, we have little funding from SSF. The reason for this is probably that their emphasis is on research of strategic importance and that their main focus is on technology and medicine. While Hultman emphasised that SSF is open to basic research, there has to be a description of potential applications and benefits to Sweden within 10-15 years after the grant runs out. It is thus a matter of potential benefit in a twenty-year perspective. I think many of our researchers would be able to meet this criterion, and I encourage you to consider making applications. SSF works with targeted calls, and it is clear from their planning the fields in which they will call for proposals.

Through the Swedish Research Council's programme for international recruitment of leading researchers, we have managed to recruit Anders Nilsson from Stanford. This represents a very welcome boost to our research in chemical physics and increases our opportunities to use the forthcoming synchrotron light source MAX IV in Lund. I am very pleased to be able to welcome Anders to the Department of Physics, where he will start on 1 July.

The first two assistant professorships, the SciLifeLab Fellows, have now been filled at SciLifeLab, and I welcome Tanja Slotte (ecological genomics, EMB) and Marc Friedländer (RNA biology, MBW) to Stockholm University. The recruitment of SciLifeLab Fellows is a central part of creating a strong research environment at SciLifeLab. I would also like to welcome Mats Nilsson, professor at BDD, to the important position as site director for SciLifeLab Stockholm.

The semester is soon drawing to a close and I wish you all a great summer!