

A word from the Dean



We have now entered the final year of the Faculty Board's term. Our ambition, to the extent that it concerns matters in our control, is not to hand over any unresolved matters to the next board. Two important issues that should be resolved this year are the future organisation and specialisation of the Department of Neurochemistry and the Department of Numerical Analysis and Computer Science (NADA). They are the smallest departments in the Faculty, and both are facing a generational change. It is proposed that they be incorporated into DBB and Mathematics, respectively, from 1 January 2018. These are solutions that I am convinced will create strong opportunities for both operations to develop. The Faculty has carried out a number of departmental mergers in recent years. The overall goal has been to create larger departments, but this has not been an end in itself, as the reorganisation has been made with an operational focus. Any mergers that are carried out must be natural and benefit future operations. I think we have been successful in this respect, and I am convinced that we have laid the foundation for strong operations within the new departments. I also think that we have been successful in implementing the changes with wide support in the organisation, and that we have been relatively successful in dealing with the problems and disagreements that inevitably occur in connection with organisational changes.

When it comes to NADA, the idea is to create a unit for computer science and applied mathematics within the Department of Mathematics. Recruitment is planned in areas connected to operations with extensive modelling, such as climate and life sciences, taking advantage of the strong operations at Nordita. This will enable us to establish a strong new research operation in an important field, computer science and applied mathematics, where we are currently not strong enough. KTH is very strong in computer science, and it is important that we establish an operation with its own profile.

Unfortunately, there is high turnover of managers in the University Administration. Joakim Malmström is leaving his position as Director of Administration in order to become Director of the Swedish Museum of Natural History. I have enjoyed working with Joakim and would like to congratulate him and wish him good luck. However, it is not good for the University that he is leaving now; there are too many big issues to deal with at present, and the administration needs to continue to improve. In the beginning of the year, Susanne Thedéen, Head of the Strategic Planning Office, left in order to become Director of the Gotland Museum. She has now been replaced by Åsa Borin, which will be very good for the University, as well as for our faculty, even if it causes problems in the short term. The Faculty depends on its well-functioning Faculty Office, which Åsa has governed in an excellent manner. The Faculty Office provides invaluable support to the management of the Faculty, serves as an effective gateway to the University Administration for the heads of departments, and is important for creating an understanding of the core operations' needs within the administration. Åsa will bring the latter role with her to her new position. With her skills and knowledge of the core operations, Åsa will be a key figure in making the administration respond better to operational needs. I am convinced that it will turn out very well, but we have to succeed with the recruitment of a new head for the Faculty Office, which is currently in its final stage. Here I am optimistic.

An election committee has been appointed and is working on a proposal for the composition of the Faculty Board that will govern the Faculty of Science from 1 January 2018. I wish the election committee good luck.

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