

We have a new Board of the Faculty and I have the great honour of chairing it. To follow Stefan as Dean of the Faculty is both easy and difficult. Stefan has done an extraordinary job, as everyone can testify, and operations are very well managed and well-functioning. This has made it very easy to take over – but it is difficult to live up to this role model. The Board of the Faculty and working committees have many new members but several of the former members remain and this bodes well for the continuity of operations, which is something I believe is important. Why change something that works well? Our eminent Faculty Office also provides a guarantee of continuity. But a new organisation has been introduced at the university with two new boards (the Board of Science and the Board of Humanities, Law and Social Sciences) and the chairs and deputy vice-chancellors of these boards will form the university management team, together with the Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor and the university's administrative director. Internally at our faculty the new organisation will not mean any major changes. The Board of the Faculty is the Board of Science and the Dean is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Contacts between the management of the faculty and the Vice-Chancellor will change however. One of my important tasks will be to ensure this develops well, and to develop a good collaboration with Astrid Söderberg Widding, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the Board of Humanities, Law and Social Sciences. A consequence of the reorganisation will also be that within the faculty the duties of the Vice-Dean of the Faculty will become differentiated from the duties of the Dean of Section – with the exact division of labour between the Dean and Vice-Dean being developed over time, but beginning with the Vice-Dean, Ylva Engström, assuming the primary responsibility for issues concerning employment and appointments. Within the Board of Humanities, Law and Social Sciences, which encompasses the rest of the university, the changes are greater, as three faculties are now jointly represented by one area board and one Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

During the year Ylva and myself, together with the respective section deans and Åsa Borin, the head of the Faculty Office, will visit the departments and units of the faculty. We have elected to focus our discussions on how the departments work with strategic issues, such as the recruitment of staff, division of resources and funding of infrastructure. We regard these issues to be decisively important to the future of the faculty and we want to gain insight into how things function today and to increase awareness of the importance of strategic efforts. The demands on universities to make decisions about research priorities are increasing and with the decentralised organisation that our university has, with strong and independent departments, much of this work must be done by the departments themselves.

The recruitment of a new Vice-Chancellor is also decisively important for the future of the university. This process has now been initiated and I can say with great satisfaction that a very good recruitment group has been appointed. I wish this group great success!

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