Pressured to resign before the inquiry was finished

Radio Uppland 2007-06-01

After being accused of having caused a bad work environment the professors of mathematics were pressured to resign from Uppsala University before any investigation of the work environment was completed. The vice-chancellor did not know at that time that the two professors had not yet been heard by the work environment inquiry.

Last autumn, vice-chancellor Anders Hallberg appointed a work environment inquiry as a consequence of the severe conflicts at the Department of Mathematics. In February this year Hallberg decided to take action against Oleg Viro and Burglind Jöricke and encouraged them to resign. At that time the work environment inquiry was not yet completed and its report was presented first one and a half month later.

- I have listened to our work environment inquiry group and to the vicerector, the head of the concerned faculty, says Anders Hallberg.

Based on the information he received from them he thought it was time to act. But what the vice-chancellor did not know then was that the two professors themselves had not been heard by the work environment inquiry.

- No I did not know that, that is completely correct, says Anders Hallberg.

Should you not have informed yourself about that?

- Yes, one may think so, perhaps I ought to have done that.

At the meeting when the vice-chancellor encouraged both of them to resign he was himself accompanied by three persons, among them the university lawyer. The accused had no one by their side and no representative from the union was present.

Burglind Jöricke was a member of the union SULF. Why was not the union present during this negotiation?

- Yes, as a matter of fact I have not thought about that at all. That is a good question.