

Professor demands an apology from the vice-chancellor

Upplandsnytt will today initiate an examination of the event that took place at Uppsala University earlier this year, when the vice-chancellor Anders Hallberg put pressure on two professors of mathematics to resign.

Sten Kaijser about the department of mathematics

Professor Sten Kaijser, colleague of the two professors at Mathematics Department, has reacted strongly to the event and holds that the university should make an official apology to the two professors that had to leave.

- I consider the two professors have been disgraced and that the university and the department should make amends, which to me means that they should apologize, says he.

The department of mathematics has for years had serious conflicts. In an effort to obtain a better working atmosphere in the department the vice chancellor asked the two professors Oleg Viro and Burglind Jöricke to resign. The forms for this request were unusual for a university. The vice-chancellor called the professors to a meeting and told them that he wanted them to leave their positions at the university, and informed them that their compensation would be diminished if they did not resign the same day.

The main reason given by the vice-chancellor was that the professors had been disloyal to the management of the university and the department and had insulted others. When the professors wanted to know more precisely what the accusations were they got no answers. This is clear from the conversations which were secretly tape-recorded by the professors. In the conversation Oleg Viro was assisted by a Swedish-Russian interpreter.

The vice-chancellor Anders Hallberg answered that he did not want to go into details. When Oleg Viro asked why he and Burglind Jöricke had not at all been listened to in the investigation about the working atmosphere that had been made, the answer was the same. Professor Sten Kaijser holds that the vice-chancellor acted after hearing only one of the two factions in the department.

The vice-chancellor does not agree with the description that he only listened two one side.

- Actually, I have not listened to any of them. I listened to the group investigating the working atmosphere. What I should have done, in retrospect, was to have given them time for consideration.

Marten Nilsson

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Unauthorized translation.