

Dismissed professor criticizes rector

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Now one of the two mathematics professors, who were forced to resign by the rector of Uppsala University Anders Hallberg earlier this year, testifies.

Oleg Viro was accused for having been disloyal to the university and for having insulted others at the institute, and therefore was requested to resign. Oleg Viro himself thinks that the rector acted strangely.

- To fire professors without conversation is outrageous. I think this is very special, says Oleg Viro.

Oleg Viro finds it very special that the rector requested him and his colleague Burglind Joricke to resign without having presented a single proof of what precisely they were guilty in.

There are people witnessing that Viro sometimes has a little outright way to present his opinion, and in 2003 he got a written warning by the prefect just for such a thing. But he can hardly understand that after that he allegedly has made himself guilty in insult of people to the extent that he has to quit his job.

There is room for criticism

- Recently we tried to count personal conflicts that we had (at the institute). Totally we could count at most six occasions, says Viro.

Thus totally six times he has been involved in discussions where others can think of being insulted, according to himself. But the management of the university must allow a free exchange of ideas, says Viro, and the rector can not request unswerving loyalty, then one gets a silent university, means Viro.

Rektor Anders Hallberg does not see any risk for a silent university after the event, academic freedom is still guaranteed.

- There is room for criticism at our university and has always been so. But we must show sensible behaviour towards each other. The working environment is what we need for having academic freedom, says Anders Hallberg.

Reporter Mårten Nilsson

Unauthorized translation.