

FORCED TO RESIGN BEFORE THE INVESTIGATION WAS COMPLETED

After being accused to have caused a bad working environment two professors of mathematics were forced to resign from Uppsala University before the investigation of the working environment was completed. The Vice-Chancellor did not know at that point that the two professors were not yet heard by the working environment group.

In fall 2006 the Vice-Chancellor Anders Hallberg originated an investigation of the working environment as a reaction on deep conflicts at the Department of Mathematics. In February 2007 Hallberg attacked Oleg Viro and Burglind Jöricke and encouraged them to resign. At that point the investigation of the working environment was not yet completed and the report from this investigation was presented only 1.5 months later.

- I have listened to the working environment group and to the supervisor of the area, the Dean of the faculty of Natural Sciences, says Anders Hallberg.

From the information he got from them he made the decision that it is time to act. But at that time the Vice-Chancellor did not know that the two professors were not yet heard during the investigation of the working environment.

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

But what about the fact that you did not try to find out about that?

- Well, perhaps I should have done that.

At the meeting when the Vice-Chancellor encouraged both professors to resign, he had three persons with him, in particular, university lawyers. The accused did not have anybody on their side and no representative from the trade union was present.

Burglind Jöricke was a member of the trade union SULF. Why was the trade union not involved in these negotiations?

-Well, I have not thought about that at all. This is a god question.

Reporter Mårten Nilsson

Radio Uppland June 1, 2007

Unauthorized translation from Swedish.

Link: <http://www.sr.se/cgi-bin/uppland/nyheter/artikel.asp?Artikel=1396286>