

Federation of Trade Unions is Critical to the Vice-chancellor

Strong criticism from the trade unions is now directed towards the Vice-chancellor of Uppsala University, Anders Hallberg and his actions against the mathematics professors Viro and Jöricke. To exert pressure on them to resign was not a kind behaviour that one expects from a Vice-chancellor, says the chairman of the Swedish Association for University Teachers (SULF), Christoph Bargholtz.

— You get the impression that he shoots from the hip.

In Christoph Bargholtz's opinion the actions of the Vice-chancellor were unprofessional.

— I have never heard of anything comparable. No thorough investigation of the work place environment was conducted, only a rather sketchy one. An inquiry was carried out under their own management, and before it was finished action was taken rashly and irrationally, says Christoph Bargholtz.

There were serious deficiencies in the actions taken by the university administration before the meeting at which the professors Viro and Jöricke abruptly were asked to resign, so Christoph Bargholtz.

The Vice-chancellor has said that he had to act for reasons of work environment, but according to Christoph Bargholtz's opinion the university administration did not have sufficient reasons to dismiss the professors.

— It is entirely obvious that the actions of the Vice-chancellor indicate that the university administration was completely aware that they had no possibilities whatsoever to dismiss [them]. What happened should never had happened.

From the point of view of SULF it is noted that the university administration should have informed the trade union about what was planned during the meeting with the professors, so that at least Burglind Jöricke, who was a member of SULF, could have brought a union representative along with her.

Reporter Mårten Nilsson

Radio Uppland June 25, 2007

Unauthorized translation from Swedish by NN.

Link: <http://www.sr.se/cgi-bin/uppland/nyheter/artikel.asp?Artikel=1445066>