

The Vice-Chancellor questions Rothstein's demand

Bo Rothstein, professor at the University of Gothenburg has today heavily criticised Uppsala University. In a debate article in the Dagens Nyheter daily Rothstein demands that the university rights of Uppsala University should be taken away. The reason for that is the way in which the University acted in two affairs: a controversy around the research of Eva Lundgren and recently at the Department of Mathematics, where two chair professors felt themselves forced to quit.

B.Rothstein: " dissolve Uppsala University!"

- The most important point is that the leadership of the University simply fired those professors without any evidence for the charges and without any thorough investigation.

- Uppsala is one of the best known abroad Swedish universities. Is it reasonable to take away its university rights?

- Yes. I had hoped that the leadership would have done an impartial investigation of the events as demanded by mathematicians from abroad. At the same time Anders Hallberg got support from inside the university based on the most strange arguments. Therefore one can see that nothing suggests that all this can be satisfactorily clarified. If the functioning of the University degenerates from inside in such a way, there is no reason to keep the university rights for ever.

The Vice-Chancellor Anders Hallberg about the critique:

- I do not even know whether I need to comment on that. But I am not quite surprised. This mathematical story has been debated at length, just as Eva Lundgren. Therefore we are not at all surprised that here comes a suggestion. But it is completely crazy. Why should we close one of the most prestigious educational institutions of Sweden?

Mårten Nilsson

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Unauthorized translation.