

## Monday meeting held by Magnus Mörth 22 March 2021

- **It is still a limitation of 8 people/room** when gathering and be observant when entering common areas like for example our lunch room that this limit prevails. It is still important that those who can be at home should be at home.

We also now have confirmed cases at the department of covid, both an employee and a student last week. Therefore, it is possible that you may have been exposed to the covid-19 virus. You should therefore be extra observant of any symptoms during the next 14 days and be extra careful to keep your distance from others. Contact 1177.se and follow instructions for ordering sampling if you experience symptoms. If you receive a positive test result and have been at the workplace, I want you to let me know and of course stay at home.

More information on how to book a test for covid-19 in Stockholm can be found at 1177.se <https://www.1177.se/Stockholm/sjukdomar--besvar/lungor-och-luftvagar/inflammation-och-infektion-ilungor-och-luftror/om-covid-19--coronavirus/lamna-prov-och-fa-provsvar-om-covid-19/provtagning-for-dig-som-ar-sjuk-i-covid-19>

- **The report from this year's environmental survey** came last week. This was very interesting reading. Two things that I want lift is that homework and distance meetings seem to work very well. However, these must be refined so that meetings have a balance between physical meetings and digital ones, as the latter (distance meetings) will probably continue to be practiced when possible. I foresee that many of us will continue to work from home several days every week. Travel is something that means more, it is simply needed in our subject area, without travel to places and studies (both research and teaching) our subject area is simply less practiced.
- **Salary revision** is for the moment an ongoing process. First round is completed and we await the response from the unions and the university.
- **Those of you that is going to apply for a VR/FORMAS grant** his year, please send us your budget at least one week before deadline so we can approve it before you send in your application. LKP is now 56% and OH 50%. The fourth years is paid by the department for a PhD student.
- **There is now a platform called SunetDrive/NextCloud at SU.** This offers a storage solution, each researcher / PhD student gets 200 GB free of charge, 6 öre per GB/month is the cost to have more. There is no limit to space if you want to pay. I think that the amount of data that is free is much too low, something we have also said to our leadership at SU, this has to increase. The good thing is

that data is stored in Sweden, GDPR and integrity are met, however, each researcher must evaluate data to be stored in the system. Redundancy is available but backups must be ordered separately.

- **SU has much better finances than expected only a deficit of -86 million 2020.** FUF decreases more rapidly and UGA is more or less constant. Revenues increased but fees decreased. Research grants was the same as before. Room costs have increased, Albano the biggest reason. Cost control is important but must not be counterproductive and affect our core activities. The forecast for SU economy is that the decrease will turn around 2023 but it will not be easy. We are asked to be very careful with permanent staff recruitments.
- **I am now participating in a work group to look over rental costs** for the natural science faculty. In the geo-environmental section alone, for example, the rent increases correspond to 11.5 million. The group will focus on the following:
  1. Monitor rental costs. Work to ensure that termination of premises leads to real rent reductions.
  2. Monitor rebuilding projects.
  3. Ensure that newly recruited teachers have access to adequate facilities.
- **A new model for quality-based resource distribution** is announced from the government. It's should be based on high scientific quality, judged by expert assessment in VR, each higher education institution at least one profile area. Stockholm University will probably have two profile areas.

The government wants this to be a quick process. Will be a hearing in April on this and a final report in June and there will not be any referrals for comments on the proposal. This is I think not well-thought-through as the system may cement how it looks today and ignoring developing fields. It is also difficult to avoid political dimensions in relation to quality and what happens if someone does not measure up either. Link to excellence, SFO funds are completely unclear for the moment.

The system I think as discussed recently at SU should have;

A time limit on funds and an evaluation should be made after this time before continuation.

Standardisation of financing, i.e. fixed sums (it is in the first round 500 millions divided between 35 universities).

- **The city planning office** is not in favour of building on the current car park and commercial garden at Bergianska with student housing. There is a great shortage of student housing in Stockholm, but the City Planning Office assesses that the proposal does not comply with the protection of the National Park in the area.
- **Last week the new Erasmus + program was launched.** The Erasmus program turns 34 this year and is nothing but a success story, with a total of over ten million participants. During the first 30 years, about 81,000 Swedish students traveled to Europe, while no less than 171,000 European students came here to study at Swedish universities and colleges. There is now a new vision and new challenges with the so-called European universities, where no less than eleven Swedish universities

today participate in various university alliances – for Stockholm University’s part Civis. Used properly, these alliances can be an important step in strengthening higher education throughout Europe. The objective is very clear: international exchange must become an obvious part of every student’s education, so that internationalization becomes an integral part of all higher education.

- **Environmental policy**

Field work and excursions must be reported and risk assessed via our website, <https://www.su.se/geo/svenska/om-oss/f%C3%B6r-medarbetare/riskanalys>.

To ensure that SU complies with the law on the transport of dangerous goods, the university’s safety adviser for dangerous goods (Daniel Sellberg, SEKA Miljöteknik AB) must be contacted before chemicals are transported outside the university area, <https://www.su.se/medarbetare/organisation-styrning/milj%C3%B6arbete/s%C3%A5-g%C3%B6r-du/kemikaliehantering/transport-av-kemikalier>

- **Next Monday meeting** is April 12, happy easter.