

## Monday meeting | Department of Geological Sciences

Monday IGV notes by Magnus Mörth, April 15, 2024

1. The Minister of Education's debate article recently criticised for wanting to influence university course offerings by pitting programs against each other. Swedish universities decide on their own which programs to offer. At the same time, the Minister of Education says that the government will target future budgets to favour technical education over distance education in independent courses.

It remains to be seen exactly how the distribution will look in the future, but this is about balance, and we believe that there has been an unreasonable development where we see that laboratory courses are being canceled while expanding these types of programs where only every other student passes.

The minister says that we should have academic freedom in Sweden, which is very important. At the same time, this is an activity that you and I and all listeners contribute to financing, and then we must have a discussion about how we use our money. I hear no one saying that we do not need more nurses and engineers. So then I ask myself, if more people are going to become nurses and more engineers, then shouldn't the offerings at our colleges and universities be adapted accordingly? Otherwise, I honestly don't understand how this is going to work.

The minister Mats Persson says that the government is doing several things to strengthen academic freedom by strengthening the criminal protection for personnel employed at our universities. If threatened, they should be equated with other essential functions in society, police, fire etc.

One thing that our minister opened for was that academic freedom could be manifested in our constitution law. How this is going to happen he did not say.

2. What courses are to be given the, outlook in Europe. Our head of university was on a meeting recently where this was discussed.

In the Netherlands, for example, universities are not allowed to establish their own educational programs; instead, it is governed by the government. Perhaps we are heading in that direction in Sweden as well, judging by the signals from our minister. Our colleagues were simultaneously shocked by the level of detail in the learning objectives in our professional programs in Sweden. On the research side, they saw themselves as performing well according to various measurements—roughly in the same position on the charts as, among others. We also had interesting discussions about merit assessment, where Dutch universities have been at the forefront of a broadened and more qualitative perspective on meritocracy. The latter I think is very important.

3. This week it was the last day to apply to VR and some calls at FORMAS. I think this last week was some kind of record where we have signed 12 applications. Thanks a lot Christina and Viktoria going through all these applications budgets before they were submitted. Statistics are though. I hope we get all but looking at statistics only a few will be granted.

This last observation was also highlighted in the interview by our minister as Swedish universities are very dependent on external grants, i.e. there are too little money for base funding. If studying the most prestigious universities in the world they have a lot of money from their own sources.

4. The Baltic Sea Center is awarded a donation of 25 million. Stockholm University's environmental research takes significant steps forward through a donation of SEK 25 million from the entrepreneur Sverker Lerheden's will. The donation makes it possible for researchers to answer more questions regarding the Baltic Sea's climate change and biodiversity.
5. KVA (KVA, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences) recently published a document on AI, [https://www.kva.se/app/uploads/2025/04/VS6\\_OmAI\\_240411.pdf](https://www.kva.se/app/uploads/2025/04/VS6_OmAI_240411.pdf). If you are interested this can be a good start of learning how AI works and what the future may be. The text is however in Swedish.
6. The last trade union (OFR, offentliganställdas förhandlingsråd) has recently said yes to the salary offer. The negotiations started in October and now everything is finished. Your salaries will be paid now in april retroactively from October last year.
7. There are quite a few free software that can be downloaded at SU and some that cost money, see <https://www.su.se/medarbetare/it/programvarulicenser/programvaror-arbetsdator>

The free that can be downloaded:

ChemOffice, <https://connect.revvitvitysignals.com/sitesubscription/Gallery.aspx>

Drawing and chemical analysis. Both for Windows and Mac. Ritning och kemisk analys. Både för Windows och Mac.

SpellRight, StavaRex Spelling and writing tools specially designed for people with dyslexia. Both for Windows and Mac, <http://download.su.se/dsa>

Brodgar, statistics software for windows, ordered through serviceportalen, <https://www.brodgar.com/index.php/download>

Solid Edge, Electronic CAD for drawing, simulation and data management, ordered through serviceportalen, <http://download.su.se/dsa>

8. Reports in the IA system - rapportering i IA-systemet  
Som medarbetare eller student vid universitetet rapportera incidenter, det vill säga händelser som lett till, eller skulle kunna leda till, skador på människor, egendom eller den yttre miljön. Det kan också vara händelser eller beteenden som skulle kunna skada SU:s verksamhet eller som strider mot gällande lagar och föreskrifter. När du rapporterar ett ärende i IA-systemet informeras din chef och fakultetens arbetsmiljösamordnare. Huvudskyddsombud och arbetsmiljöombud får också kännedom om händelsen. Det finns olika sätt att rapportera en händelse/avvikelse. Genom att använda en av följande länkar eller via IA-appen.

As an employee or student at the university, report incidents, i.e., events that have resulted in or could potentially lead to harm to individuals, property, or the external environment. It may also include events or behaviours that could harm the university's operations or violate applicable laws and regulations. When reporting an incident in the IA system, your manager and the faculty's work environment coordinator are notified. The main safety representative and work environment representative also become aware of the incident. There are different ways to report an event/deviation, either by using one of the following links or through the IA app.

Rapportera en händelse på svenska

<https://app.iasystemet.se/PreventionIA/IA/Pages/Occurrences/HandelseVisa.aspx?Ny=Ja>

Report an incident in English

<https://app.iasystemet.se/PreventionIA/IA/Pages/Occurrences/HandelseVisa.aspx?Ny=Ja>

Rapportera händelser/avvikelser via app

För att rapportera en händelse via IA-appen behöver du först ladda ner appen med din mobiltelefon via Google Play (Android) eller App Store (iPhone). Sen behöver du logga in manuellt med följande uppgifter:

Report incidents/deviations via the app.

To report an incident via the IA app, you first need to download the app on your mobile phone from Google Play (Android) or the App Store (iPhone). Then, you need to log in manually with the following details:

Användare/User: SUapp

Lösenord/Password: Februari2022

9. Now it is a new year and you have to report secondary employment again, go to, <https://hr.su.se/primula/> and report your status. This is the third and last time I will remind you about this.