

The Linnæus University is dead. Long live Linnæus Corporation

December, 30, 2012 we are saying goodbye to Linnæus University. January, 1, 2013 we say hello to Linnæus Corporation. The transformation of a University into a Corporation will then almost be accomplished.

- In a University, the Rector is elected among the academics. At Linnæus Corporation, the CEO is appointed by the Linnæus Corporation board.
- In a University, the academic leaders, i.e., Deans, are elected by the professionals. At Linnæus Corporation, the divisional managers are appointed by the CEO.
- In a University, the Faculty board is elected by the professionals. At Linnæus Corporation, the equivalent to a Soviet committee was elected in a Soviet inspired election among the employees where one had to vote for one of two external candidates, with the effect that these two persons got 101% of the votes. No-one had the right to vote blank.
- In a University, free speech and debate is hailed. At Linnæus Corporation, the technical opportunity that is given through the e-mail system to distribute information and debate by everyone, to everyone, is now restricted to only include some bosses and so called "Information officers", i.e., censors. In fact, it is not only against University tradition. It is transforming a traditional flat Swedish company culture into a hierarchical culture.

Thus, from 1 of January we have the Linnæus Corporation, with a management structure consisting of a CEO, and with divisional managers leading a Soviet committee, implementing a hierarchical communication culture.

Linnæus University will be buried without any ceremony. Not many appear to mourn the University. Or maybe they are afraid to declare their opinion. I mourn the University.

So, maybe you ask, why not leave for a University? But the terrible fact is that about every University has been or will be buried in Sweden. Linnæus Corporation is but a feather in the storm of de-professionalization of academic organisations. Linnæus Corporation does not belong to the avant-garde of radical revolutionaries. It is only part of the main stream of change.

I have no University to go to, so I have only two alternatives. To leave the academic training fields and get an outlet for my energy and mission of teaching and research elsewhere. Or to create a strong organizational bubble of independence within the Corporation.

To be honest, I believe, and indeed, I have some indications, that I can contribute to young students and doctoral student's personal and professional development. And, to be honest, when I am sitting among students and doctoral students and train them in critical thinking through debate, I experience what could be termed 'professional happiness', i.e., happiness within the professional sphere of my life, quite comparable in intensity and emotionality to happiness in my private life. Thus, I believe I can do a difference, and I enjoy doing it.

There is, however, some good news from organizational theory. They claim that structure not always determine process. With strength and devotion to the cause of University, I give up the University management structure, and pay no respect or adherence to it. I focus on the process, where I will keep up academic training through academic processes. That is the strategy of the University Bubble (UB).

UB will be my strategy. UB will be my mission. If I fail, I have already my resignation paper written. I will not give up my conviction of University supremacy due to corporate forces within the university system. I will speak loud and clear and term things with their real names. Even if I then will be baptised as 'academic whiner', which indeed I am already being named by the Dean when fighting for democratic elections.

Because, as Giovanni Falcone said: "*He who is silent and bows his head dies every time he does so. He who speaks aloud and walks with his head held high dies only once.*"

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