

Hello

I am writing to you because, with reference to the plagiarising affair, I think that you and the other professors have a duty to act when scientific honour and conduct is at dispute. There is a Professorsråd where this matter has been presented. However, I do not attend the Professorsråd since I do not consider Professors to be advisers at a university.

I think that the professors should organize a collegium and claim the right of influence. Of course, we cannot assume any power, yet, since that is vested in the formal organization. But if we as professors can make one opinion, then ...lets put the hope to the Business school that it will listen, maybe even accept our opinion.

In this very situation, where the scientific honesty is at stake, I think that we, the professors, should air our opinion and our concern for the integrity and ethics of the university.

I suggest that we gather together and make a statement, for the dean, for the rector and for the board to follow.

To make a meeting is with today's technology rather easy. We do not have to meet at 8, with coffee at the same place. We can all agree to meet at a certain time, but could be seated in Växjö, Kalmar, at home or in Ferrara, and use Skype or ooVoo. Today I organise seminars with Minsk, Sumy, Arizona and Kalmar, so it is possible. It is only a matter of timing.

What I would like us to discuss and make a statement about is the following:

### **The full extent of the suspicioned scientific misconduct will be explored.**

That imply that all individuals that are employed at the Linnaeus University and that can be related to the suspicious scientific misconduct will be investigated.

That imply that the individuals all scientific work, especially the one that has been performed at the Linnaeus University, but preferable all work, will be scrutinized. What we know from research in plagiarism, is that individuals plagiarising seldom do it once, but repeatedly.

### **The report becomes public**

Since plagiarism is not only about individuals, but concern the reputation of the university as well as influence the scientific climate and culture of the university, it has to be made open and subject to debate among the employees at the university.

### **Sanctions should be given that corresponds to the fault made**

Last time a plagiarism case was found, the perpetrator got a written document with a warning. That is not a strong signal created by the university, indicating an adherence to a zero-acceptance policy concerning plagiarism. A student with the same amount of plagiarism would have been punished with at least one month expulsion. If plagiarism is found, one could think about sanctions such as a.) recommendations to the persons to leave the university; b.) withdraw any university research funding, including hours for research,

conference attendance and so on; c.) any paper written with by the person(s) have to be scrutinized before the university name can appear at the paper, and this concern internal seminars, conferences and not only submissions to journals, 4.) no teaching including scientific method or supervision for some years. Of course, if the plagiarism is severe, then termination of the employment contract is natural. According to my experience, that is very hard to do, so the softer means of sanction will probably be the case. (Of course, it could be the case that there is not to be found any indications of plagiarism. Then we have to revert to other actions, as important as those of sanctions. But, in this case, as far as I can tell, by inspecting two articles, they are not following my norms of proper scientific conduct.)

We realize that there are labour laws that regulate possibilities of sanctions. These laws are expected to be handled by the Personalnämnd.

Yet, the collegium of professors are the ones that should be given the power of sanctions since they should be the defenders of proper scientific conduct at a university and they are the ones that should express the Linnaeus standards of scientific conduct. Personalnämnd deals with employees, we deals with scientific standards. Personalnämnd follow labour law. We follow the standards of the scientific community.

So, at short, what do you think about

- I. Organizing a professors collegium, short term task is to defend scientific standards at Linnaeus university
- II. Making a statement according to my suggestion above, 1.) directing the evaluators what they should do, i.e., scrutinize all participants and all their production; 2.) make sure the report becomes public; 3.) claim the right of professors making the sanction
- III. Or, maybe you have a different way to deal with the situation, with the same end result, defence of Linnaeus University scientific honour and conduct?

I would appreciate if you responded to me within one week.

Öllsjö 1 October 2014

Sven-Olof Yrjö Collin