Dear Heads of Department,

As I am sure you all know, we are now launching a new university-wide research evaluation at Uppsala University - Quality and Renewal 2017 (Q&R17).

Previously, two research evaluations have been carried out at the University, Q&R07 and Q&R11, with the primary objective to evaluate the quality of research at UU.

Q&R17 has a different focus than its predecessors. This time, the preconditions and processes underpinning quality within the research environments of the University will be brought to the fore. In other words, Q&R17 is primarily expected to provide the research environments of the University with input to further develop their systematic quality work and renewal. Therefore, Q&R17 will not result in any sort of grading or directly affect resource allocation, unlike Q&R07 and Q&R11. Instead, Q&R17 will culminate in an analysis which will allow us to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas suitable for development within our research environments. The external experts will also be asked to submit recommendations. The information yielded is to serve as the basis for strategic development measures.

While the focus will be partly different, as before, the process will involve self-evaluations, bibliometric analysis and external expert evaluation. A new addition is a survey focusing on the research environment, to be distributed to researchers, lecturers and PhDs. The results of this survey will, together with bibliometric data, constitute a basis for the self-evaluation of the departments, which will be designed to encourage constructive critical self-reflection. The research results, in the form of bibliometric data, will be included in the evaluation as a point of reference.

The written survey and the bibliometric analyses will be conducted in spring and summer 2016. The self-evaluation will be conducted in autumn 2016, and the external experts are set to make their on-site visits in spring 2017.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor will act as project manager of Q&R17, with the Deputy Vice-Rectors of the three Disciplinary Domains (Marika Edoff, Mats Larhed, Anna Singer) serving as assistant project managers. The project also includes two student representatives, PhDs Sara Andersson and Inti Lammi. Camilla Maandi is the project secretary, and Head of Division for Quality Enhancement Åsa Kettis serves as special adviser. The project is also assisted by a task force.*

Over the last month, we have presented and discussed Q&R17 in various constellations in front of a number of different audiences within the University.

We are also able to make appearances on request to brief other parts of the University about the project, where possible. For inquiries, please contact Camilla Maandi.

A website about Q&R17 is also provided in the Employee Portal, serving as an information point: https://mp.uu.se/webinfo/vart-uu/uniovergrprojekt/kof17-forskningsutvardering.

With this e-mail, I would like to welcome you all aboard as active participants in Q&R17. The success of the project largely depends on having the academic management on the level of the departments and disciplinary domains feel included and take an active interest in Q&R17 (which naturally does not preclude that you, as heads of departments, delegate the entirety or parts of the practical implementation to other people in the research environment).

At a few points over the coming year, I will send you e-mail with requests and instructions for the parts where the input of the departments is necessary (mainly the bibliometric analysis, written survey, self-evaluation, and expert visits).

An initial e-mail concerning the bibliometric analysis is set to arrive in very short order, but following this, we shall try to limit our e-mail bombardment to a few choice barrages.

Hej!

Första veckan skickade jag ut detta mail till er med information om KoF17. Här kommer samma information fast på engelska.

Mvh
Camilla Maandi

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It is my hope that Q&R17 will result in a revitalisation of the collegial discussion on how we develop and equip our research environments in order to reach the highly-set goals for the University on how to conduct world-class research coupled with education of the highest quality and broad collaboration with other elements of society.

Kind regards,

Anders Malmberg (via Camilla Maandi)

*) A complete description of the project organisation can be found here:
https://mp.uu.se/web/info/vart-uu/uniovergrprojekt/kof17-forskningsutvardering/organisation