



Work environment, research and teaching

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Disclaimer

This presentation is less about the formal rules as it is about how we run things at our division.

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Work environment

Physical work environment:

(We had very pleasant premises in House 6 (until 2020), but House 9 is even better.)

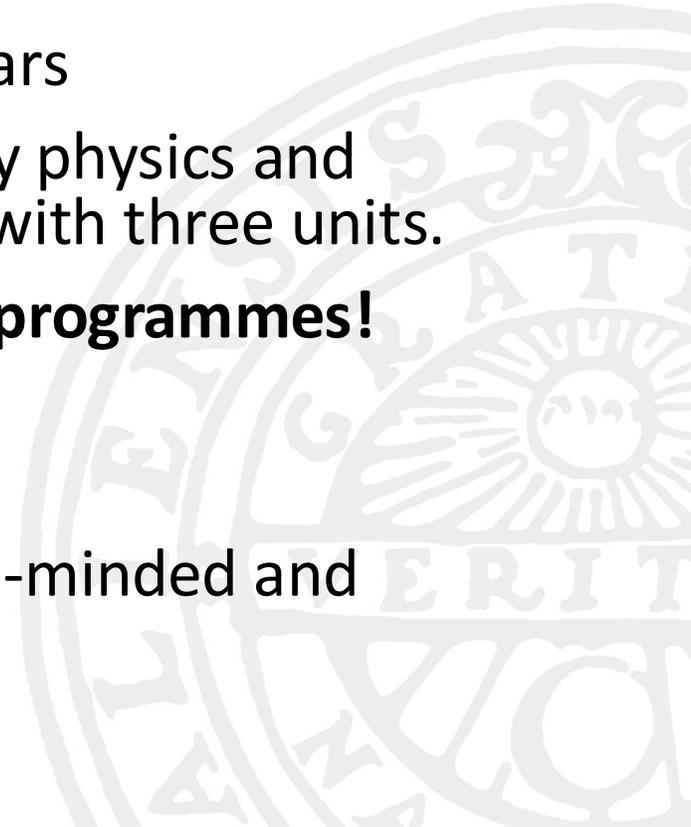
Research environment: changing on timescales of a few years

As of 2024, we are part of a *unit* with Particle & High-energy physics and Physics education research, all within a large Physics Dept. with three units.

We collaborate freely and creatively between groups and programmes!

Social work environment: needs constant work

Welcoming and integrating new members, keeping an open-minded and friendly atmosphere, socializing without force



Our weekly *social* schedule

Fika (Mondays at 1500 h)



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Research seminar (Thursdays at 1400 h, plus *fika*)

Friday meeting (Fridays at 1300-1400 h, no *fika*)

Short low-key presentation by one of us (< 20 min)

Astro-pub (Fridays at 1730 h)

No longer organized by any of us, so rather a relic



Research

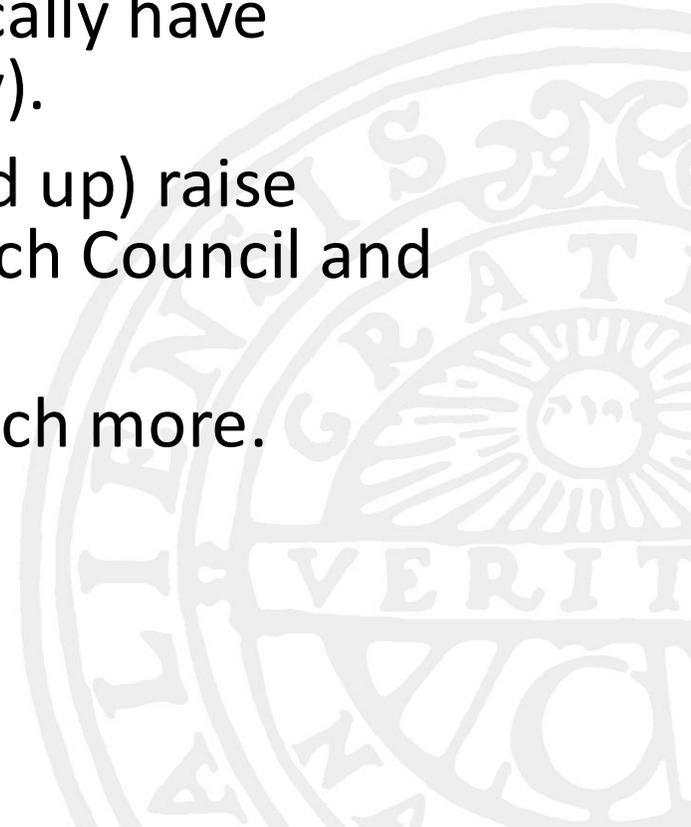
Everybody employed (from PhD students up) does research.

The way we are currently financed, staff members typically have **50-70% FTE of their time for research** (at least formally).

This works as long as most staff members (lecturers and up) raise ~50% of their salary externally (mostly from the Research Council and the Swedish National Space Agency, also *Wallenberg*).

If you don't have external funding, you may have to teach more.

Supervising PhD students is part of this FTE fraction.



Teaching

We have astro/space courses on the Bachelor's, Master's and PhD level. They need to be given once formally announced.

Teaching creates income for the division (exception: PhD courses).

Manning changes from year to year, depending on availability. But many staff members hold on to courses they have taught for many years (to be time-efficient). PhD students are usually involved in teaching (up to 20% FTE). This is a merit and buys them extra clock time for their PhD (up to one full year).

You can replace teaching with other duties (to some extent).

When faced with a fiscal-budget deficit in 2008, we took on more teaching (Mechanics) and this way balanced our budget. Thanks to the Physics Dept!

\bf: aspects AK has been involved in over the years

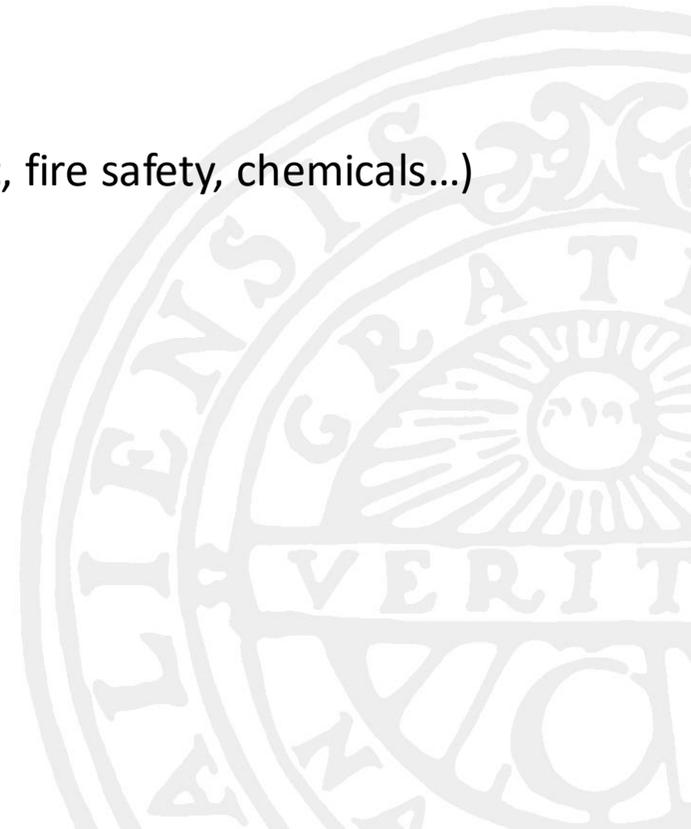
And there is more...

Administrating ourselves

- Division head
- Division board (8: two programme professors ++)
- Head of undergraduate education in astro/space
- Head of PhD education in astro/space
- Department head, **Department board** (4+4 teacher reps), **Strategy council**
- Division representatives in various groups (equal opportunities, **work environment**, fire safety, chemicals...)
- Head of under-/graduate/PhD education in physics (4)
- Coordinator for the Bachelor's programme in physics (1)
- **Coordinator(s) for the Master's programme in physics** (4)
- **Erasmus exchange coordinator**
- ..., e.g managerial positions on the TekNat-faculty level

Reaching out to society

The third task Swedish universities are obliged to do. This is a collective obligation.



Public outreach

I have been a member of the **Swedish Astronomical Society** (SAS) since 2012 (succeeding Nils Bergvall). Since 2020, I'm its vice president.

SAS is unique in being an amateur+professional (am-pro) society.

Its main task is to popularize astronomy and space:

- ☆ It gives out *Populär Astronomi* four times a year
- ☆ It organizes an annual **Astronomy Day and Night**
- ☆ It hosts Sweden Solar System, the world's largest to-scale model of the solar system (<https://www.swedensolarsystem.se/en>)



A two-stage rocket towards Saturn

A to-scale inflatable half-sphere to be placed strategically during a launch event in 2025 to

- create awareness
 - create public engagement
- and
- put some pressure on UU.

Funds for stage 1 applied for:
250 kSEK.



Saturn stage 2

A small (6.5m) multi-D visualization room for interactive teaching, research and outreach activities.

Stage 2 is currently being worked on in the Department and the Faculty. UU is looking for a sponsor.

Given sufficient funding, this could be a reality when UU celebrates its 550th birthday in October of 2027.



plus Titan ($d = 60$ m)