

How can we improve teaching-research linkage? The Government Inquiry on Governance and Resources (*Styr- och resursutredningen, STRUT*)

<http://www.sou.gov.se/utredningen-om-styrning-for-starka-och-ansvarsfulla-larosaten/>



The Inquiry on Governance and Resources

- Led by Pam Fredman
- Secretariat: Lars Olof Mikaelsson, Ingeborg Amnéus, Magnus Petersson & Anders Steinwall
- To be finished december 2018
- Mission: a comprehensive review of the steering of and resource allocation to Swedish state Higher Education Institutions.

Teaching-research linkage part of our mission

Higher Education Ordinance:

- "The operations of higher education institutions shall be organised to ensure that there are close links between research and education"

From our remit:

- "It is important that steering and resource allocation ... does not undermine the Higher Education Act's requirement regarding close links between research and education. Whether today's strict division between separate budgets is the reason for possible lacks in this linkage, or if there are other primary reasons, should be investigated. It must be possible for universities and university colleges to create integrated knowledge environments including education, research and cooperation with the surrounding community"

Do we need a better definition of teaching-research linkage?

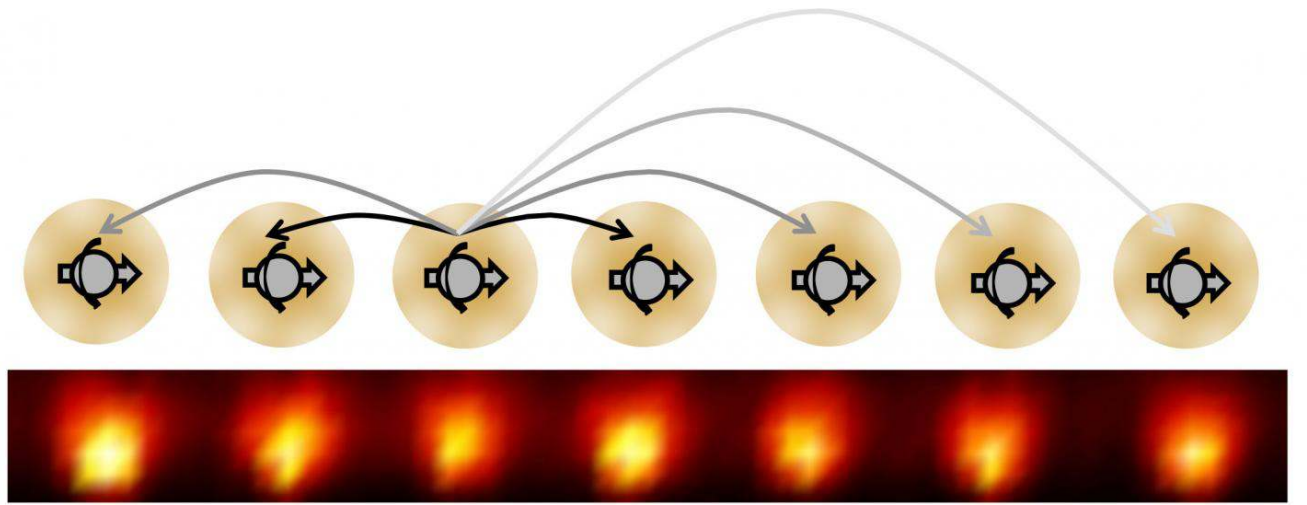
- **Some have suggested that the Government should define teaching-research linkage and its preconditions more fully ...**

e.g. Haikola, Higher Education over 20 years: *"There is a fundamental problem in how the Higher Education Act's requirement of teaching-research linkage should be interpreted. ... It is our view that the easily identifiable conflict between Humboldtian ideals and mass education has not been given the attention it needs. ... We propose that the Government clarifies how the Higher Education Act should be interpreted."*

- **What would be the advantages and risks of doing so?**

Why and what teaching-research linkage?

- **Quality of education:** harnessing research and researchers' skills to enrich teaching
- **Quality of research:** how teaching can enrich research and researchers
- **Academic culture:** open, critical reflection, student/teacher partnership
- ... or mostly a pragmatic issue of using resources efficiently?



Is X a necessary or sufficient precondition for teaching-research linkage?

- **Researchers teaching in their area of research**
- **Active researchers teaching (not necessarily their own research)**
- **Teachers having had research training (PhD)**
- **Each employee continually having both teaching and research tasks**
- **Each HEI, or department, or subject/field, having a good balance between teaching and research and thus between funding/time for these**

What could we propose in the way of regulation or funding models that would help establish good conditions for teaching-research linkage?

Is Sweden especially bad at teaching-research linkage, and if so, why?

- **Usual culprits:**
 - Introduction of **teaching-only positions** in the 1950's (*lektorat*; changed in 1990);
 - Establishment of **HEIs without any research funding** in the 1970's (changed in 1998);
 - Separation in the 1970's between **different budget allocations** for teaching and research respectively;
 - Increasing portion of research funding allocated through **competitive project grants** rather than institutional block grants.

Given the heterogeneity of the Swedish higher education landscape, what measures could be proposed to increase teaching-research linkage everywhere?

What do we suggest?

- **Common budget allocation for teaching and research**
- **Government Bill on Research *and* Higher Education**
- **More dialogue-based steering with greater adaptation to different HEI's different profiles and contexts**
- **Holistic evaluation system (already under way)**
- **More attention to education from research funders (already under way)**

Thank you!

To follow our work (in Swedish ...)

<http://www.sou.gov.se/utredningen-om-styrning-for-starka-och-ansvarsfulla-larosaten/>

anders.steinwall@regeringskansliet.se

