

## Short presentation of the new Rectorate (Presidency)

The Rector team for 2013-2017 will consist of Rector and Pro-Rector candidates Ole Petter Ottersen and Ruth V. Fjeld together with Vice-Rector Ragnhild H. Hennem.

**Ole Petter Ottersen** became Professor of Medicine in 1992. He headed the Department of Anatomy from 1997 to 1999 and was Dean of Research at the Faculty of Medicine from 2000 to 2002. Mr Ottersen is the incumbent Rector of the University of Oslo, a post to which he was elected in 2009. He has headed one of UiO's multidisciplinary initiatives (Interfaculty Unit for Molecular Biology, Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, EMBIO) and one of the major programmes of the Research Council of Norway (National Program for Functional Genomics in Norway, FUGE). He coordinated two projects under the EU Framework Programme. He has also headed one of the University's Centres of Excellence, the Centre for Molecular Biology and Neuroscience (CMBN), from 2002 to 2009 and one of the three first Nordic Centres of Excellence in Molecular Medicine. Ottersen has received several prizes, including the Anders Jahre Prize for Medical Research and Lundbeck's Nordic Research Prize. Engaged in international evaluations for many years, Ottersen also chaired the panel for neurosciences and neural disorders at the European Research Council (ERC) from 2008 throughout the year 2012. From 2006 to 2009 he was chief editor of *Neuroscience* (the official Journal of the International Brain Research Organization). Ottersen has given classes to medical students since 1976. Quality of education, internationalization and science communication are among his key interests.

**Ruth Vatvedt Fjeld** became Professor of Scandinavian linguistics at the Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies in 1998, specializing in lexicography and lexicology. She has headed the *Seksjon for leksikografi og målføregransking* (Section for lexicography and dialect research) and led several projects within the field of lexicography and dictionary work. Ms Fjeld has been a member of the research committee at the Faculty of Humanities for several years and participated on various national and international committees and panels. She has also taken part in international research projects, especially in Scandinavia, and she has led the work to establish lexicography as an independent research discipline in Norway. She has written several esteemed textbooks and dictionaries. Currently she is in charge of the construction of *Leksikografisk bokmålskorpus* (LBK) a lexicographic corpus of the Norwegian language, practical and theoretical lexicography and computerized lexicography. Fjeld is also in the process of developing a computerized, readable word net of Norwegian and she is the managing editor of *Bokmålsordboka*, the authoritative dictionary of the Norwegian written language (*bokmål*). She is the only person in Norway who teaches theoretical lexicography. Fjeld has been a language consultant at the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation NRK for a number of years, a consultant for the 2011 translation of the Bible (Bibel 2011), and she has had many elected offices and managing positions in academic contexts. She is now a board member of Euralex, the European Association for Lexicography. Fjeld has been the head of the Nordic Association for Lexicography and co-editor and chief editor of LexicoNordica.

**Ragnhild Hennem** is a Professor of Law at the Department of Public and International Law. She obtained her cand. jur (LLB) degree from the University of Oslo in 1991, and earned her doctorate at the same university in 1999. From 1992 to 2003 she held a variety of positions at the Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law: researcher, PhD research fellow, post-doctoral fellow and university lecturer. In 2004 Hennem became Associate Professor at the Department of Public and International Law and in 2007 she became a Professor.

The majority of Hennem's scientific work concerns criminal law/criminal procedure and the sociology of law. In addition to her doctoral dissertation entitled "Bevis i saker om seksuelle overgrep mot barn" (Evidence in child sexual abuse cases), she has published articles on sentencing, the legal aspects of euthanasia, sexual violence in general, preventive detention and forced marriage. She teaches criminal procedure and criminal law. As of 2009, Hennem has been the Vice-Rector in the Ottersen/Bostad Rectorate. As Vice-Rector, Hennem has worked particularly with questions related to work environment and learning environment and contact with representatives. Hennem is also in charge of handling matters that concern both the academic and administrative line of authority.

## **Election programme**

Team Ottersen/Fjeld/Hennem will follow up on Strategy 2020 to fulfil the main tasks of UiO, which are: research, education, communication and innovation. We want these four tasks to be integrated into a whole, and we want UiO to strengthen its position as a leading international university. Therefore we will make the following priorities:

- **UiO should be a place where students and staff feel pride and joy**

We want scientific staff to experience UiO as a place of work that offers academic freedom as well as openness and professionalism in all decision-making processes. We will protect the right of each and every researcher to have uninterrupted time for research.

We want technical and administrative staff to have ample opportunities for professional development and to feel that their efforts to reach the main objectives of UiO are appreciated.

We want UiO to be an attractive place of study, also on the international scene. We want quality to be the hallmark of all our educational programmes, making our candidates attractive on the job market.

Employee satisfaction and enthusiasm is essential to build the reputation of our institution. We will increase our efforts to strengthen UiO's reputation and visibility, nationally and internationally.

The importance of a good working environment and learning environment must be made even clearer. UiO is to remain a bearer of culture and will continue to support student associations, including the Norwegian Student Society.

We will ensure the involvement and participation of staff and students in academic affairs. Rector and Deans will be elected. The Institutes and Units will be left to decide whether or not the leader should be elected.

- **UiO should be a university that guarantees equal opportunities and equal treatment for all**

All employees should enjoy as much predictability in their careers at UiO as possible. In order to achieve this, we want to reduce the number of temporary positions. Working with the civil servant organizations, we will resume efforts to have tenure track positions.

We will ensure financial support to permanent operation of a network organization for staff in temporary academic positions (UiODoc).

We will work for equal right to education and support student demands for more student housing and better educational grants and loans. We wish to keep the current scheme which guarantees that no student has to pay tuition fees, regardless of their country of origin.

We want to ensure that all groups have equal opportunities. Gender quality efforts have had good results. Yet we still have some lengths to go before we achieve a good balance. Mentor schemes have proven efficient and will be pursued further.

In the years to come, many academic employees will be replaced due to a natural turnover of staff. We must use this window of opportunity actively to increase the number of female professors.

- **UiO will keep up efforts to maintain high quality education programmes**

The work to prioritize quality of education, interdisciplinarity and better follow-up will continue. We will follow up the earmarking of allocations to ensure high quality of education and set aside further resources through the internal reorganization process (IHR).

The University should be a place where education is closely linked to research and where the students meet the best researchers at an early stage of their study.

Students will be invited to participate at all levels, and their voices will be heard through the new student representative (studentombud).

We will strengthen student counselling. Project to improve learning environment “ForVei-prosjektet” at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has been a success and can be used as a model in other learning environments.

We will pursue and intensify our work with digitalization and new forms of learning and evaluation, valuing efforts in education just as much as we value research efforts. Evaluations shall be tied to feedback and learning.

We will continue to improve the physical learning environments at UiO. The libraries are crucial for high quality learning environments.

- **UiO should be a ground-breaking university**

High ambitions are the invisible framework of any leading university and a prerequisite for quality research. We must build opportunities for interdisciplinary and inter-faculty collaboration, and we will consider whether or not today’s incentive- and productivity measurement system (“tellekant-system”) is the best way to encourage original research and research collaboration.

The funding of research in Norway needs to be restructured. In recent years there has been a shift from funding through university budgets towards external funding. Researchers in Norway are becoming more and more dependent on the Research Council of Norway. Despite improvements in recent years, there is still a very limited amount of resources available for independent projects initiated by researchers. We will work to strengthen the availability of resources for independent basic research through the Research Council of Norway. Internally, we will strengthen research and education quality through the internal reorganization project IHR.

Having access to financial resources is crucial for ground-breaking research. We also believe that good library facilities are indispensable for research and will keep on supporting these facilities.

UiO is to follow up the strategy for Open Access and thus help to share knowledge and make it accessible for everyone.

Everything UiO does should be marked by high quality.

- **UiO should be a university with great academic breadth**

The University is an important institution for conserving, exploring, extending and transmitting on to new generations our common intellectual, scientific and cultural legacy.

We wish to maintain the academic breadth of UiO and will work to ensure that insights from all fields of expertise are included when research tasks are defined and explored.

We will continue the work to give the humanities better framework conditions and easier access to external funding.

Interdisciplinary research and education will be further developed, with particular focus on life sciences and energy.

- **UiO is to be a university where research, education, communication and innovation are viewed as a whole**

We want to make education more appealing by having a closer linkage between education and research.

Communication is important to make UiO more visible in the media. We will develop a plan to strengthen communication efforts even further.

We will continue our work to develop arenas for exchanging knowledge and organize an annual UiO Festival similar to the festivals held in the bicentennial year.

We want to complete the work to establish a professorship in science communication. This professorship will form the basis of a strong professional environment for research communication and strengthen UiO as an arena for debate on academic affairs and policy-making.

Innovation should be an integral part of all education programmes. We will follow up our Action Plan for Innovation and promote innovation in its widest sense. We will make sure that Inven2 – which has already evolved into one of the biggest innovation companies in Scandinavia – has the best possible working and operating conditions.

- **UiO should be in close contact with many partners**

We will continue to build on our good relations with the City of Oslo and Helse Sør-Øst (The South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority).

We will pursue collaborative efforts with public administration through Partnerforum.

We will establish a partner forum with the private sector.

We will establish a new series of meetings for trilateral cooperation with the public school service, the private sector and the university. Through such trilateral collaboration, we may draw more students to

subjects that today need recruitment, for instance engineering and the study of certain foreign languages.

We will also strengthen our cooperation with unions and student organizations.

- **UiO must balance its internationalization efforts with the responsibility for investigating and documenting Norwegian and Scandinavian languages and culture**

We will continue our efforts to increase the exchange of students and researchers with foreign countries and we will strengthen UiO's centres in Svalbard and abroad, including the centres in St Petersburg, Fudan, Rome, Athens and the newly established Peder Sather Center at UC Berkeley. Adjunct Professor positions will be used to connect leading international scientists to UiO. Special funds will be set aside for this kind of recruitment purposes.

We believe that a successful internationalization process must be founded on a strong commitment to, and support of, one's own culture and languages. We want UiO to be perceived internationally as a university with a unique and strong Nordic identity. We will therefore focus on research and education within the field of Norwegian and Scandinavian languages and culture and strengthen Scandinavian cooperation on research and education. We will work to institute regular meetings between Scandinavian universities, which will ensure a good division of labour and promote Scandinavia internationally and within the EU, in the fields of research and education.

- **UiO must assume global responsibility and defend the values of democracy**

New students are trained for a global labour market and hence need insight into the major challenges we face as a global community. The "Global Citizen" lecture series – which started in 2012 – will be continued.

UiO must educate competent and active citizens with genuine insight into the values on which our democracy is built. Together with student organizations, we will work to create even more arenas for discussion on campus.

We will strengthen interdisciplinary research and education on Human Rights. UiO will take the initiative to form an international network against capital punishment.

We will strengthen symmetrical research and educational cooperation with the global South. UiO will facilitate the enhancement of competence through NORHED and other programmes.

Environmental work (Green UiO) will be continued and strengthened.

- **The University Museums are important to UiO**

We will keep focusing on the University Museums and make sure they play an even greater role in the University's communication and recruitment efforts. Research conducted at the Museums is important for UiO and will be strengthened.

We will work to ensure the funding of a new greenhouse at Tøyen and the rebuilding of the Natural History Museum.

We will work for the development of a Museum of Cultural History at Tullinløkka – at the same time as we work to locate the Faculty of Law in one place. We have a vision that Tullinløkka and the adjacent University buildings form an integrated academic and cultural centre in Oslo – the city of knowledge.

- **UiO should be transparent and self-critical**

We want UiO to be open to criticism from the inside as well as the outside. We therefore want to have an active and independent press on campus and we will continue to have an international strategic advisory board.