



NATUR-
VETENSKAPLIGA
FAKULTETEN

DECISION

Reg. no
STYR 2024/803

Date 2 April 2024

Dean

Decision on Co-Location of the Centre for Environmental and Climate Science, Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science and Department of Geology

Background

The co-location of the Centre for Environmental and Climate Science (CEC), Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science (INES) and Department of Geology is a long-term strategic choice for the development of the Faculty of Science's activities relating to the environment, climate, geology, physical geography and ecosystem science. It is also a necessary choice for optimising the faculty's utilisation of premises. More efficient utilisation of premises contributes to sustainable operations from both a financial and environmental perspective.

Strategic choice

The co-location of natural sciences research and education relating to the environment, climate, geology, physical geography and ecosystem science aims to create a stable basis for strengthening these strategically important areas and encouraging further collaborations.

Co-location also provides better conditions for coordination and cooperation in technical and administrative areas. This is an element in the faculty's long-term goal to create a more consistent organisation and size regarding the faculty's departments (STYR 2023/2118, page 17).

Finances and sustainability

The financial conditions make it necessary for the faculty, as well as the University as a whole, to review the utilisation of premises. Efficiency enhancement in utilisation not only reduces premises costs but is also in line with the Faculty Board's ambitions to create better conditions by moving resources from premises costs to the organisations (STYR 2023/2118, pages 5-6).

Preparation

Research relating to the environment and climate, geology, physical geography and ecosystem science constitutes an area of strength within the Faculty of Science. Research and education in these areas is currently conducted mainly at CEC, INES and the Department of Geology.

Several analyses show that there are considerable benefits to be had from coordinating the organisations and that a joint department would further strengthen these strategically important areas of research and education.¹ The placement of CEC, INES and the Department of Geology together at the Geocentre would promote campus development at Sölvegatan and along what is known as the Knowledge Highway. The premises at the Geocentre are also well suited for outward-facing activities.

On 1 February 2023, the dean was tasked by the Faculty Board with initiating a project to examine the possibilities for the co-location and co-organisation of CEC, INES and the Department of Geology within one department. A prerequisite for forming a joint department was that the organisation could be co-located (STYR 2023/166).

In the spring of 2023, a general property review of Geocentre I and II was conducted and showed that the basic conditions existed for bringing together the organisations in joint premises. A premises programme was drawn up over the course of May to December 2023. This was outlined in a report (STYR 2023/2647) and presented to the Faculty Board on 13 December 2023.

On 19 December 2023, the dean decided to continue the work in accordance with the report's conclusions and proposals (STYR 2023/2855). The aim was to complete the documentation for the implementation decision in January 2024 and that the documentation for the placement decision would be completed in March 2024. Work

¹ See STYR 2022/1317, STYR 2023/990 and STYR 2023/291

on the documentation for the decision was extended somewhat and continued in February and March. Work on the placement proposal also continued during spring 2024.

Investigations have been conducted relating to premises needs (Appendices 1, 2) and test scheduling has been conducted to examine the possibilities for bringing together the organisations' teaching (Appendix 3). The premises programme presented to the Faculty Board on 13 December 2023 shows, like the general property review, that the co-location of CEC, INES and the Department of Geology at Geocentre I and II is feasible.

The test scheduling showed that the building has the capacity for the education conducted by the organisations and that the utilisation rate of the teaching premises can be increased.

Adaptation of premises

Certain conversions and premises adaptations will need to be carried out at Geocentre I and II. This applies mainly to:

- Laboratories – to increase usability and co-utilisation.
- Office environments – to provide more office places.
- Meeting rooms – to increase the number and accessibility.
- Communal spaces – to facilitate collaboration.

The number of study spaces and access to student lunchrooms requested by students was not wholly fulfilled. The conversion of the Astronomy Building into a study centre with study spaces and lunchrooms will be significant in meeting the students' needs.

Finances and budget

The Faculty of Science's resource allocation for 2024 (STYR 2023/2118) includes scope for financing costs relating to the planned co-location. Procedures for the management of actual costs associated with the co-location will be drawn up jointly by the faculty management and the managements of CEC, INES and the Department of Geology.

Information about the process

Since autumn 2022, information on the coordination work for a joint department has been available on the faculty's internal website (in both Swedish and English). The information is regularly updated.

Since the policy decision (STYR 2023/2855) was made in December 2023, conversations and discussions relevant to the co-location process have taken place at board meetings, staff meetings and status update meetings (Appendix 4).

The proposal for the decision on co-location was communicated in accordance with the information requirements in Section 19 of the Swedish Employment (Co-Determination in the Workplace) Act on 13 February 2024 and negotiations took place in accordance with Section 11 on 19 March and 2 April 2024.

Decision

The dean decides that those activities currently conducted at the Centre for Environmental and Climate Science (CEC), Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science (INES) and Department of Geology are to be co-located at Geocentre I and II.

Furthermore, it has been decided that:

- CEC, INES and the Department of Geology, with support from the Faculty of Science Office, are to appoint key persons for the planning and implementation of the co-location and establish a coordinated organisation for building-related matters and a joint IT environment,
- a proposal for placement of staff is to be completed by 3 June 2024,
- the co-location process is to be completed by 1 September 2025,
- joint scheduling of courses and programmes at the Geocentre is to be in place as of the autumn semester 2025.

The decision on this matter was made by the undersigned Dean Per Persson after consultation with the Presiding Committee and a presentation by Vice-Dean Karin Hall.

Per Persson

Appendices

Appendix 1 Proposed changes at the Geocentre

Appendix 2 Floor plans of co-location at the Geocentre

Appendix 3 Conclusions and recommendations for scheduling

Appendix 4 Information concerning work on co-location