

Oslo, 17 March 2019

Electoral platform of Jørn Mortensen (rector candidate) and Heidi Mariann Haraldsen (prorector candidate): Motivation and main features

During my term as rector at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts (KHiO), we as an institution made a strategic decision to stand alone and be autonomous, we have implemented a strategy plan for the period 2017–22, and a new director has been hired who has had reorganising the central administration as one of her main tasks – something that has been done. Further, KHiO has been accredited as an academy of art at a university level, so that we are now in complete control of our subjects. We have instigated an Artistic Research Week and set up our own PhD in artistic research. During this period we also began pedagogical courses for recent employees, as well as some colleague mentoring. We are on our way to fulfilling the objectives of the strategy plan!

During this period the institution has faced a serious situation stemming from notifications of sexual harassment and unwanted sexual attention. Dealing with these cases has been challenging, but I hope that the open and transparent processing of these cases has helped KHiO move forwards as an institution, with a distinct culture and a clear policy of zero tolerance for bullying and harassment.

KHiO's mission is laid down in section 1.1 of the University and University College Act: we are to offer higher education at a top international level, we shall carry out academic and artistic research at a top international level, and we shall disseminate knowledge of our activities and their results. Nonetheless, as part of our social mission we would like to underline the importance of KHiO helping ensure confidence in art as a "fifth estate" in society, that is as an institution that – on an autonomous basis – produces aesthetic experiences that have contemplative, democratic and critical qualities. We therefore concur with the recent government report on the art economy (*Kunstens autonomi og kunstens økonomi*, 2015, p. 8): "Art represents a creative force in a democratic society, an important prerequisite for knowledge, a corrective to and a dialogue with social trends, and a part of the underlying basis for public debate. Art is also important for individual experiences and education. Hence, the freedom to create art is fundamental."

As a rector candidate my motivation lies in continuing the work that follows from KHiO's strategy plan as well as from its social mission.

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As a rector team we will base our work in the next period on the Strategy Plan 2017–22. By using this strategy plan as our compass for the period, we will help create predictability about the path we are taking.

At the same time, we would like to highlight some of the main issues that will guide our work as rector and prorector during a new term:

Green shift

Under our leadership, the school shall take more responsibility for the green shift and be a sustainable enterprise. It is unethical and irresponsible not to deal with this! "Environmental accounting" shall be carried out at KHiO with the aim of reducing the institution's carbon footprint. KHiO's priorities shall relate to its carbon footprint and to CO₂ equivalents – at all levels of the institution. This will have consequences for travel, energy consumption and procurement/investment. The theme of sustainability shall also be incorporated into KHiO's academic priorities and artistic research.

Diversity and culture of expression

During the period we shall ensure that KHiO recruits more widely and more diversely than today. This means a de-colonisation of the repertoire and references so that the academic content is characterised by diversity. Further, we must reflect the society around us better and include additional perspectives that can challenge and revitalise our academic discourses and practices. We shall ensure that KHiO continues to be an open platform for all types of artistic expressions, and together with the institution's staff and students we shall work for the value of diversity in art and society. In the age of No Platform and a polarisation of the public debate, this is more important than ever.

Students' freedom of choice and student involvement

Students shall be included and heard as equal partners in the work on educational quality. Students shall also be given more freedom to choose their own portfolio of skills. We shall revise the curricula for the Master's programmes at KHiO so as to enable Master's students to learn from all the disciplines taught at KHiO. In this manner, KHiO can promote greater diversity and interdisciplinary cooperation and provide space for additional voices in the art scene of tomorrow.

Students' learning environment

We shall ensure that students' psychosocial learning environment continues to be a priority. We shall do this in cooperation with the Student Council. The teaching must be permeated by fundamental values such as safety, trust and respect. This can be done by, among other things, enhancing the teachers' and supervisors' ethical, pedagogical and psychological skills, ensuring an open dialogue in all lines of communication, establishing good procedures for evaluation and feedback, as well as offering students auxiliary courses in e.g. mental training, stress management, study techniques and study planning.

Educational quality

We shall work systematically on educational quality and on creating a culture of learning at KHiO to ensure that our programmes are optimally designed in regard to both content and educational technique. Areas we will highlight include educational leadership at the programme level and artistic research-based teaching. We also want to launch projects that challenge and develop innovative, student-activating forms of learning. Further, we shall put in place a competence recognition scheme for staff working in teaching and research capacities and a more offensive skills enhancement package for staff so that we can make the most of their potential to enhance the students' learning.

Lifelong learning

We shall establish a teacher training programme for visual subjects. This will increase the opportunities in the workforce for visual artists who have completed their education, and it will help increase the quality of art education throughout the entire course of education, from pre-school to primary and secondary school to higher education. KHiO has a social responsibility to engage in art education at all levels and thereby ensure that everyone has access to aesthetic experiences and reflection!

Internationalisation and exchange programmes

During the period we will help strengthen KHiO as an internationally relevant institution through cooperation agreements, diversified recruitment and exchange programmes. In 2018 only 6.6 % of our students and only 15 members of our staff stayed at a partner institution. As an institution, our ambition should be to increase these figures.

Artistic research and the PhD programme

We will continue to develop the Artistic Research Week as a sharing platform for the school's staff and students. We will base our efforts on a broad understanding of research that is based on the exploratory ambition of various types of artistic practice, and ensure a diversity of methods and formats in the results from the artistic research. The PhD programme in artistic research has been established but will need to be consolidated and grounded in the upcoming period.

Working environment and hours

We shall work on developing a more distinct "we", namely a professional knowledge organisation characterised by an academic community that engages, challenges, works together and motivates. We shall revise the working hours guidelines so that they enable research and educational professionalism, and so that they are balanced in regard to the employees' tasks in teaching and research positions at an institution such as KHIO.

Campus development

Under our leadership, we want to activate the lobby area by locating the café/canteen along with the service centre to this area. The canteen shall aim to be ecological and sustainable. The "Vrimla" area in the performing arts building shall be revitalised in collaboration with the Student Council in order to create a common student area for interaction, collaboration and increased enjoyment.

Resource use and economy

The Oslo National Academy of the Arts is being subject to de-bureaucratisation cuts in line with all other state-financed enterprises. This puts the institution in a challenging economic situation, even as our ambitions continue to be high. In order to deal with this situation, the school will have to both prioritise more strictly and use our resources more efficiently. Under our leadership, this domain will be highly in focus. The goal is that these efforts shall ensure that the allocation of resources will be predictable, fair and transparent for our departments and sections.