

Dear Måns & Pål,

Please find below an urgent letter for the attention of KHiO's styret, in advance of the meeting tomorrow, on behalf of all the undersigned faculty. We very much hope you can bring this to the agenda despite the short notice.

To the board of KHiO:

As faculty members, we wish to put the departure of the rector in the broader context of the very high turnover of senior staff at KHiO over the last five years. We believe that there are significant ongoing structural problems at the school and the way it is organised. We think the relationship of the departments with a centralised administration is unworkable. This has implications for everyone at the school - faculty, administration and students - above all, that central administrative decision-making is too detached from professional/faglig priorities and from the artistic practices which are the core of the institution.

Everyday consequences of this include:

- Too much centralised administrative decision-making on professional/faglig questions
- Too little centralised administrative support e.g. artistic research, human resources, recruitment of students, Covid-19, digitalization of teaching.
- Too little centralised administrative integration of staff within departments i.e. which prevents them from getting to know the staff, students and curricula to make informed decisions.
- Unclear remit and excessive administrative workload for deans and heads of subject areas.
- Unworkable, artificial and incoherent division between faculty teaching and technical staff in the workshops.
- Lack of long-term planning from the centralised administration which hampers departments' planning for pedagogic delivery.
- Lack of foresight and streamlining in the process of recruiting staff e.g. undermines departments' planning for pedagogic delivery.
- Lack of formalised meeting places and possibilities of engagement for interdisciplinary and democratic discussions at KHiO.

As faculty members, we believe it is essential to begin to address these problems. We are therefore writing with the following two requests:

1) To initiate an in depth review informed by both internal and external parties; taking into account alternative organisational models from other international interdisciplinary art school and involving consultation with faculty, central administration and students.

2) To recruit a Director who will work closely with the Rector to implement significant structural changes; prioritising the pedagogic delivery of the faculty, rather than adhering to the current status quo of an unworkable centralised administration.

Oslo, 16.11.2020

Yours sincerely,

Theodor Barth
Andreas Berg
Tora Endestad Bjørkheim
Bjørn Jørund Blikstad
Kirsti Bræin
Hege Bratsberg
Sigurd Bronger
Victoria Rowena Browne
Camilla Bruerberg
Liv Bugge

Jeannette Christensen
Sally Dean
Karen Disen
Siri Dokken
Steinar Elstrøm
Pedro Gomez Egana
Sara Eliassen
Sigrid Espelien
Dora Garcia
Melissa Gordon
Lotte Grønneberg
Ane Hjort Guttu
Jon Jesper Halle
Line Halvorsen
Danuta Haremska
Rune Helgesen
Saskia Holmkvist
Vilde Horvei
Marie Kølback Iversen
Maryam Jafri
Marte Johnslie
Toni Kauppila
Karin Knott
Ane Thon Knutsen
Annabeth Kolstø
Petter Width Kristiansen
Mette L'orange
Lisa Lie
Peter Løchstør
Camilla Luihn
Lotte Konow Lund
Martin Lundell
Sunniva McAlinden
Alan Mackenzie-Robinson
Bror Mikkelborg
Jorge Manilla Navarrete
Kristin Norderval
Sidsel Palmstrøm
Manuel Pelmus
Jan Stefan Pettersson
Maziar Raein
Lisa Rosendahl
Vigdis Ruud
Kjell Rylander
Merete Røstad
Olga Schmedling
Franz Schmidt
Caroline Slotte
Erik Solheim
Mike Sperlinger
Leif Stangebye-Nielsen
Øystein Stene
Sigurd Strøm
Anne Line Sund
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Petrine Vinje
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