The University of Gothenburg is advancing its position, according to ranking company Times Higher Education, which put us in ninth place on an international top-30 list of effective publishers. We are also thrilled about large increases in grants.

Just having passed the first half-year mark as a new Vice-Chancellor, I too feel we are making great progress. Last year’s advances are a result of some high-quality contributions, and we are continuing to strengthen our strategic ability further in the areas of education and research.

In order to develop the University as an employer, we created a new structure for our systematic work environment management. It should be easy to make positive changes when problems arise. Student influence received high priority in 2017, and will continue to do so.

Now let us close the books for 2017 and look ahead. We are of course anticipating both challenges and reasons to be proud and happy. Personally, I look forward to an in-depth discussion of the role of universities in society.

Eva Wiberg
Vice-Chancellor
RESEARCH

- Initiated the RED19 project – an evaluation of the University’s research and research environment.
- Eight applications approved in Vinnova’s call regarding the development of universities’ capacity for outreach and cooperation.
- Host of three of the national research infrastructures granted funding from the Swedish Research Council.
- Obtained one third of the total funding allocated via the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation’s project grants for basic research in medicine and the natural sciences.
- Decided to establish a research board for strategic issues related to research and outreach/cooperation.

EDUCATION

- Implemented policy for quality assurance and quality development – which now also encompasses the doctoral programmes.
- Developed the principles for redistribution of spots in courses and programmes, to make the allocation more dynamic.
- Strengthened the internationalisation efforts – increased student mobility and engagement in international collaborations.
- Established the Pedagogical Academy and continued the work to integrate blended learning in teaching.
- Started the development of three new supplementary programmes for people with non-Swedish academic degrees.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

- Developed the process for following up on the systematic work environment management.
- Continued the gender mainstreaming work.
- Decided on a policy and an action plan for accessibility.
- Developed a special leadership development programme for the recruitment and appointment of several new deans and department heads.

IN ADDITION, WE HAVE

- Arranged a summer school for newly arrived immigrants.
- Received the highest grade in the Swedish Higher Education Authority’s evaluation of integration of sustainable development in education.
- Developed a policy for the academic administration.
- Started a project for cooperation between universities and schools around practice-oriented research.