

Revision of the Dismissal of Dr. Andrej Holm

Dear Mrs. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. Sabine Kunst,

as president of the Humboldt-University of Berlin (HU) you were handed the responsibility to evaluate the in 2005 by Dr. Andrej Holm answered questionnaire concerning the political past of staff members in the German Democratic Republic. Equally, the final decision regarding the possible legal consequences for his employment were yours. On 18th January 2017 you publicly declared the decision of the executive committee of the HU to dismiss Dr. Andrej Holm from his position as lecturer at the Institute of Urban- and Regional Sociology (ISW).

Your decision is based on the alleged “malicious fraud”. This claim is based on the divergent declarations in the CVs handed to the university by A. Holm in 2005/ 2011 and 2017. Additionally you referred to the Stasi (Intelligence Services of the former German Democratic Republic) documents as well as the 2007 taz-interview.

However, in your argumentation you cannot without doubt refute that the divergent declarations in A. Holm’s CV are due to the missing information about the official status of cadets officers (students in education to become officers).

Fact is, that the diverging declarations about his status as main officer for the Stasi can be explained by A. Holm’s access to his Stasi files. It was only after being appointed as secretary of state for housing to the Berlin Senate 2017, that A. Holm realized that he was actually filed as main officer to be by the Stasi. Your continued criticism of Andrej Holm to not having distanced himself from his explanation for the diverging declarations is henceforth unreasonable. Equally as wrong is therefore your conclusion of the necessity of dismissal.

Additionally you base the necessity of your decision on the potential loss of integrity the HU could face. You chose not to continue the employment as you feel unable to entirely defend a continuation against possible criticism. Notwithstanding, the integrity of the HU should only be threatened if there was no reasonable grounds to continue A. Holm’s employment. The university could have easily lay out reasonable grounds however, to do so:

- Andrej Holm has previously spoken out openly about his past in the Stasi
- the relationship of trust between Andrej Holm and the university is not weakened to that extend that a dismissal is inevitable
- according to your own words, having had the official status of officer of the Stasi would not have prevented his employment in 2005
- the majority of his colleagues continue to put their trust in Andrej Holm

We demand you therefore, to revise your decision to dismiss Andrej Holm form his position as lecturer.

Best regards,