



Subject area: Visions and overarching strategies

Document type: Objectives/strategy
Decision-maker: LTV Faculty Board
Organisational unit: LTV Faculty Office
Reference: Ida Andersson

Decision date: 8/2/2017
Effective as of: 8/2/2017
Valid until: 31/12/2020
To be updated by: 31/12/2020

Document(s) repealed: LTV Faculty Strategy 2014–2016, SLU.Itv.2014.1.1.1-679

Annex to: Faculty Board decision, §11, 8/2/2017

Strategy of the LTV Faculty 2017–2020

The faculty's mandate as defined by the SLU Board

'The Faculty of Landscape Architecture, Horticulture and Crop Production Science is based in Alnarp. The faculty is responsible for research, education and environmental monitoring and assessment within the fields of landscape and horticulture. This takes place with close external collaboration and is carried out at both national and international level. The faculty is also responsible for cultivation systems, plant breeding and plant protection together with the Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences and the Faculty of Forest Sciences. The university as a whole is responsible for issues relating to the environment, health, quality of life, food, water and production.'

Strategy of the LTV faculty in relation to SLU's strategy

The faculty shares the university's vision. The mission statement specifies how the faculty can contribute to SLU's mission within its specialised area of responsibility.

SLU's strategy has five focus areas that state what must be prioritised in order to create the best possible conditions for the operations:

- Employees
- Students and education
- Research infrastructure
- External collaboration
- Our shared SLU

These focus areas tie together the LTV Faculty's overall objectives, described in detail below.

The strategy also states four research areas that are shared by all four faculties:

- Bio-based materials
- Sustainable and secure food supply
- Economics
- The significance of experiencing nature and of companion animals on human health and well-being

The challenges that the faculty faces within these areas are stated under the heading ‘General themes and development areas’, and recur in the departments’ strategies and action plans.

Vision

The LTV Faculty contributes to achieving SLU’s vision:

‘SLU is a world-class university in the fields of life and environmental sciences.’

Mission statement

The LTV Faculty responds to local and global challenges in landscape, horticulture and agricultural crop production. Through research, education, collaboration and outreach we link actors throughout the knowledge chain, thereby contributing to building sustainable communities and developing sustainable consumption and businesses.

In this way, the LTV Faculty contributes to SLU’s common mission statement:

‘SLU develops the understanding and sustainable use and management of biological natural resources. This is achieved by research, education and environmental monitoring and assessment, in collaboration with the surrounding community.’

Values

The LTV Faculty’s values are generally based on SLU’s common fundamental values: scientific approach, creativity, openness and responsibility. However, the faculty wishes to highlight and specify further values that are especially important for us and that are mainly connected to what being an employee entails:

- **Transparency and trust** – We have an open dialogue and transparency in our working methods and decision-making processes and we utilise everyone’s knowledge, expertise and commitment.
- **Responsibility and respect** – We take personal and joint responsibility for the quality of our work and contribute to the healthy development of LTV as a whole. We take responsibility for contributing to a good working environment for ourselves and each other.
- **Clarity and flexibility** – We make an active contribution to a well-functioning organisation and good working conditions that are perceived as tolerant and creative.
- **Commitment and participation** – influence and participation for employees and students are vital to the organisation’s way of working and contribute to a working climate that promotes job satisfaction and enthusiasm.

Success factors

For the success of the LTV Faculty we must focus especially on the following:

- Qualified, sought-after research on important current and future societal issues.
- High-quality education with good teaching and learning methods and close links with research and the professions.
- Well-developed collaboration within LTV and SLU in general, as well as with external partners and stakeholders.
- Good resource management and long-term funding.
- A well-functioning, positive working environment for staff and students.

Overall objectives of the LTV Faculty

- Operations are of high quality, attractive and well known for commitment to and work on current and future societal challenges.
- A good working environment and good leadership mean that employees and students have a sense of belonging and develop and take joint responsibility for our operations.
- Degree programmes and courses at first-cycle and second-cycle level expand and are in demand thanks to their close connection with research and society. An inspiring educational environment stimulates the development of the students' knowledge and learning, which in turn makes them well equipped to handle complex issues and lead change management.
- Research and doctoral programmes show good growth, in which the doctoral programmes reflect and contribute to the breadth and focus of the research. There is increasing evidence of systems thinking as well as cross- and multidisciplinary.
- Collaboration with the surrounding society strengthens education and research and makes an active contribution to society's development and sustainability. The faculty is a natural choice as collaborating partner and is characterised by cooperation between departments and faculties.
- The infrastructure is well suited to its purpose and adapted to operational needs.

General themes and development areas

Introduction

The UN 2030 Agenda defines 17 global goals for sustainable development. Some of these objectives cover *ecological sustainability*: water, ecosystem and biological diversity, while some are mainly concerned with *economic sustainability*: responsible consumption and production and economic growth, and others relate to *social sustainability*: education, health and well-being. The objectives show the

direction for research, education and development. The ultimate purpose of the objectives is to achieve three overall goals: End extreme poverty, fight inequality and tackle climate change.

Climate change is an overshadowing global challenge. Human impact on the climate must be reduced, people's quality of life prioritised and the economy must become more circular and bio-based. The challenges exist globally, nationally, regionally and locally. By means of research driven by need and by curiosity, as well as education and collaboration, the activities of the LTV Faculty provide strong and important links in the knowledge chains that affect these vital issues.

For the period 2017 to 2020, two general themes have been identified, which are based on the faculty's mission statement and which further develop certain areas of the SLU strategy. The faculty's areas of activity are landscape, horticulture and crop production, where we have strong scientific competence and a wide range of specialists. However, many of the major issues facing society demand increasing collaboration between departments, increased systems thinking and cross- and multidisciplinary.

While the faculty's specialist competences in the subject areas need to be developed, there are great opportunities for new collaboration and new connections. What follows should be seen as an inspiration and basis for the departments' strategic plans for the next four years.

The two themes – *Urban and rural landscapes* and *Production system for business and consumption* – should not be regarded as separate. They have many connections and similar issues; for example there are links between landscape and food. The themes are not only related to research; they must also be implemented in teaching and they involve collaboration with companies, organisations and other universities and authorities. Structures and methods are needed here that favour mobility between academia and 'practice'.

Urban and rural landscapes

Urban and rural landscapes should be seen in terms of a broad sustainability perspective. Together these landscapes form complex and interconnected spacious and functional systems. Urban and rural landscapes should be studied in many fields of knowledge, based on the principle of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations' to meet theirs. Public institutions and planning activities, as well as companies, organisations and individuals are all party to this work.

The following pan-departmental development areas have been identified and can represent a basis for further discussion:

- Analysis and planning of landscapes as a means of handling climate change
- Urban development that favours people's quality of life
- Multi-functional urban and peri-urban production in agriculture and horticulture
- Bio-based materials that contribute to a circular economy
- Nature-based experiences that promote health and societal benefit
- Social development in which urban and rural resources can be integrated and safeguarded

Production systems for business and consumption

Sustainable production requires effective resource management and companies that are profitable in the long term. Both production and consumption must occur in circular systems with a high level of efficiency. What is produced must also correspond to the needs and demands of users and consumers. Food must be good, nutritious, ethical, climate-smart and produced with consideration for environmental aspects of crop protection and fertiliser supply, as well as being easily available in the retail market. The bio-based materials must meet equally high requirements as present fossil-based ones.

The following development areas have been identified and can represent a basis for further discussion:

- Climate-smart horticultural production, plant cultivation and consumption
- Cultivation systems and products for a bio-based, circular economy
- Quality throughout the value chain creates added value
- Innovative horticultural products that promote people's health and well-being
- Safe and sought-after food in urban and peri-urban cropping systems
- Companies in the green sector develop in a sustainable direction

Based on the overall objectives, as well as the above themes and development areas, the LTV Faculty's strategy will be formulated and put into concrete form as a multi-annual action plan with subsidiary goals and activities. The action plan is adopted by the LTV Faculty Board and will be updated halfway through the strategy period.