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Letter of Intent

SLU's Board - Elected representatives of teaching staff and researchers

As an elected representative of teaching staff and researchers, I want to help create an inspiring and engaging academic environment for employees as well as students, which acknowledges the strength of SLU's collective and diverse skills. High-quality research – both fundamental and applied - needs to be encouraged, alongside innovation and environmental monitoring. Teachers and scientists should get good support from administrative procedures and good tools for internal and external communication.

SLU should make a difference for sustainable development. We can win a very strong image as a university focussed on sustainability in all its dimensions, environmental, economic, social and cultural. To do this, the value of social science research and the challenges of cross- or interdisciplinary research need to be highlighted. Interdisciplinary approaches are needed to tackle the societal challenges of management of biological natural resources in a sustainable way. This requirement is signalled in SLU's strategy, which opens the way for new types of research partnerships on issues such as of human and animal joint health, and the importance of nature and landscape for our well-being.

There is a strong teaching capacity in our various disciplines, and a large knowledge capital that can support interdisciplinary research collaboration. The interdisciplinary platforms that will grow from the new 'Future' research programmes will have a challenging role in stimulating interest in university-wide issues, and support joint applications, publications etc. The SLU brand needs to be anchored in society at large, public awareness of the university's values needs to be deepened, and we should work towards a broader recruitment of students, as the society, ethical values and attitudes change.

In an increasingly complex global environment, SLU's role in the international context is more important than ever. We have deep expertise in many crucially important challenges such as food security, supply of renewable energy and fibres, mitigation of and resilience to climate change and other environmental impacts, migration, people's quality of life and animal welfare in urban and rural areas. Further internationalization of teaching and research (globally and within Europe) should be promoted at all levels.

Collaboration and FOMA must continue to be priority areas. Collaboration with public communities – for example mutual sharing experience and "best practice"- contributes in many ways to creating virtuous circles. Research funding is based increasingly on collaboration with various stakeholders and it is through collaboration that socially relevant research questions are identified.