

Lotta Berg

I am a graduate from the veterinary programme at SLU, and today hold a position as Professor (Faculty Chair) in Animal Environment and Health at the SLU campus in Skara. During my career, I have also been working at central competent authorities within the sector (e.g. the Swedish Board of Agriculture) and internationally representing Sweden and SLU, and hence have insight in the expectations on SLU from that side. I have been a member of the SLU Board for one term of office, and now stand for a second period, as I have seen that it does take time to gain insight into the large number of complicated issues handled by the Board.

Declaration of intentions

I am a candidate to the Board because I want to influence the work and direction of the university. One of the areas I find particularly important to develop is the cooperation between SLU and other universities, both within Sweden and internationally, in relation to research, undergraduate education and PhD students. The content, design and quality of the research education programmes are one of my main interests, but also internationalisation of our educational programmes in general, at all levels. We are currently in a process of expanding several of the SLU programmes related to animals, and I believe that my background as a veterinarian with serious collaboration with animal scientists, animal welfare inspectors and biologists make me suitable for being engaged in this process at the higher level.

Another area where I believe that I can contribute substantially is contacts between SLU and the governmental authorities and agencies, where SLU has a special position within the agriculture and forestry sectors, a position that has to be managed more actively. High quality research produced at SLU should possibly have a larger impact at the EU level than what we currently see. The research at SLU has a very good reputation within the scientific community and is often found at high positions in international rankings, but there may be room for improvement in relation to policy work both nationally and internationally. Likewise, it is important that relevant industries, farms, businesses and organisations feel that SLU takes responsibility for handling important and sometimes controversial questions in an efficient and constructive way. Agriculture and forestry are at the centre of many of our activities, but we must not forget all the other relevant stakeholders in other fields under the SLU umbrella and ensure that we meet their high expectations on SLU. From my perspective, the animal-related issues need to be continuously in focus at SLU, and I believe that I can add useful perspectives there. Today, issues related to crisis preparedness and contingency planning are being discussed increasingly, and this is an area where SLU must show leadership and emphasize the importance of animals and food production from a disaster and defence perspective.

In summary, my intention is to focus on development of the SLU University within the following areas:

- Expanding the cooperation between SLU and other Swedish and international universities,
- Developing the content, design and quality of the research education (PhD studies), without adding undue bureaucracy,
- Intensified internationalisation of undergraduate and postgraduate education
- Expanding the cooperation and expertise towards Swedish and international competent authorities and agencies, increasing the demand for SLU's competence,
- Development of contacts and cooperation with relevant stakeholder organisations to meet their expectations,
- Emphasizing the animal-related perspective in relation to all SLU issues, including the animal facilities at the university,
- A development of and emphasis on SLU's competence and relevance regarding preparedness and contingency planning.