

Statement of Intent – Anders S. Carlsson

Why do you want to serve on the Board of SLU?

I am convinced that SLU plays a central role in the development of a long-term sustainable society in Sweden, not least through its combination of research, education, and societal engagement. The work of the Board is crucial to the university's long-term quality, financial stability, and strategic direction, and I wish to actively contribute to this responsibility at a time when demands on universities' societal relevance and sustainability are increasing.

I have now been nominated and encouraged to stand for election to the Board of SLU by a broad group of professors, senior lecturers, and researchers, reflecting strong internal confidence. This has also confirmed my belief that my experience and competencies can be valuable to the work of the Board. By serving on the Board of SLU, I wish to actively contribute to the university's long-term development and to ensuring that its activities continue to be characterized by quality, relevance, and sustainability.

Are there any specific matters you would like to work for?

- That SLU continues to develop and deliver strong, research-based solutions for a sustainable and resilient Swedish food supply throughout the country, while also actively contributing to climate adaptation and climate transition.
- That SLU strengthens its scientific quality and excellence in the long term and continues to be an attractive university for students and researchers, both nationally and internationally.
- That SLU can ensure high-quality educational programs as well as sufficient, stable, and predictable funding for strategic research in a changing Swedish research funding landscape.
- That SLU continues to systematically develop its internal leadership development to ensure access to qualified academic leadership and robust, efficient, and long-term sustainable governance of the organization.
- That SLU's strong geographical presence throughout the country, together with the collective competence of its staff and students, is safeguarded and further developed. This is a key prerequisite for SLU to remain an attractive and competitive university at the international, national, regional, and local levels.

Why do you think you are a suitable person for this role?

With 26 years of experience at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, including twelve years as Head of Department and close collaboration with fellow Heads of Department across SLU, I have a deep and practical understanding of the university's organization, governance, and strategic conditions. In my leadership and decision-making, I apply a listening and inclusive approach, actively gathering diverse perspectives and relevant evidence as a basis for well-balanced decisions. Combined with extensive experience in academic leadership, this gives me strong qualifications to contribute constructively to the work of the Board.

My scientific expertise and professional background align well with SLU's vision Knowledge for a Sustainable Life. With more than 35 years of experience in plant science research, education, and leadership, I have consistently worked on issues related to sustainable food production, the bioeconomy, and climate adaptation, where fundamental science is combined with societal relevance.

I have extensive experience of international collaboration and of leading complex academic organizations, which has given me a strong understanding of strategic university governance and long-term development. Taken together, this enables me to contribute scientific depth, respect for core academic values, and a strategic, holistic perspective to the work of the Board.