

Statement of Intent

I hereby express my interest in standing as a candidate for the position on the Board of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) as a representative of teachers and researchers. With this statement of intent, I wish to outline my motivation, experience, and ambitions in relation to this assignment.

For more than 36 years, I have been active at the Department of Economics, where I have worked in education, research, and collaboration closely linked to SLU's societal mission. This has led to that I have large network within the agricultural sector. Through my experience as Head of Department, Director of Studies, Vice Chair of PN-NJ, Chair of the Scholarship Committee of the predecessor of the NJ Faculty (i.e., the NL Faculty), and as a Senior Lecturer, I have developed a strong understanding of the university's academic conditions, governance, and strategic challenges.

My motivation to stand as a candidate is rooted in a strong commitment to SLU's role as a leading knowledge institution in sustainable development, agriculture, environment, animal health, and natural resource management. This is well summarized in SLU's recently adopted strategy for 2026–2030: "SLU has a key role in the development of sustainable living, based on science and education" (SLU.ua.2025.1.1-3508, p. 1 – translated from Swedish). I regard the Board as a central forum for safeguarding academic quality and the conditions for successful research and education, based on SLU's core values, namely scientific integrity, creativity, openness, and responsibility (ibid., p. 2).

As a representative of teachers and researchers, I particularly want to contribute to:

- Safeguarding and strengthening academic freedom and integrity
- Ensuring good conditions for research and teaching
- Promoting long-term competence development and career progression
- Advocating transparent decision-making processes and constructive dialogue between management and academic staff
- Contributing to a sustainable and inclusive working and study environment

I consider it a central task to bring forward the perspectives of teachers and researchers in the Board's work and to contribute to well-founded decisions that benefit both academic activities, teaching, and the university's long-term development.

The Board position is, to me, an important position of trust that requires commitment, responsibility, and integrity. I am prepared to devote the time and resources required to fulfil this role professionally and to represent my colleagues in the best possible manner.

In conclusion, I hope to be entrusted with the opportunity to contribute to SLU's continued development as a strong, independent, and socially relevant university. I remain at your disposal for any additional information or further discussion.

Karin Hakelius