

Notes from SLU's board meeting November 8th 2016

The day before the meeting in Alnarp the board of SLU attended the opening of the Biotron, a facility for modern plant research.

Main points on the agenda for the board meeting were:

- The delegations of authority (delegationsordningen) describe the powers that have been delegated by the SLU board to the vice-chancellor or the faculty boards, and from the vice-chancellor to the head of university administration. It was suggested to move the decision on what programs to offer on bachelor and master level from the board to the board of education (utbildningsnämnden). After a long discussion we, the student representatives, are pleased that the decision will stay in the SLU board, at least for the next coming years.
- The numbers in the financial report look good, almost too good. SLU has around 574 million SEK saved at the faculties and departments. This is an issue because if SLU has a good financial situation, it is hard to argue for more money from the government. The vice-chancellor has informed the deans about the issue and a process of recruiting professors, postdocs and PhD students has been initiated. However, recruiting new employees takes time. The financial situation will most likely still look good by the end of the year and SLU estimates to generate an overplus of 117 million SEK.
- Because of the good financial situation the board had a long discussion before deciding on a budget for 2017. According to the budget departments with a very good financial situation will during next year either have to spend money or pay a fee and come up with a plan for how to minimize excess capital.
- SLU is looking into how the employment of researchers and teachers can be more secure, less dependent on external funds and more supported by money from the state (statsanslaget). Also to boost the carrier, money will be given to promising researchers and teachers.
- The aim for 2017 is to increase the number of students by 200 full-year student units (hst). A bonus will be given to faculties who take on and teach more students than planned.
- Previous years FOMA got 20 million from EU (Landsbygdspengar, given to SLU from Jordbruksverket), for 2017 the contribution will be halved, and by 2018 completely removed.
- The board took a first decision on investing in renovation and building a new stable/barn in Götala, close to Skara. The total cost is estimated to 16 million SEK.

Maria Karlsson

Chairperson SLUSS PhD student council