

## Notes from SLU's board meeting February 20<sup>th</sup> in Uppsala

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Main points on the agenda for the board meeting were:

- The annual revision for 2016 was presented. In 2016 95 PhD students were admitted and 131 graduated, only around 10 licentiates graduate every year. In 2016 SLU had in total 604 active PhD students, which are 100 less than in 2010. 69% are employed. Around 57% are women and 43% men, around 40% are non-Swedish. On average it takes 8,5 semesters (net study time) to complete PhD education and 5,4 for licentiate. The quality assurance system was mentioned as well as SLU common courses and the research schools.
- Budget proposal for 2018-2020, sort of a wishlist to be sent to the government, focuses on more money for research and research education within biobased materials, sustainable food production, economy, the importance of nature and animals for human wellbeing, and One Health.
- The internal audit presented a report on how matters are handled and decisions are made in the faculty boards. Overall the internal audit found no major concerns. Main issue was how to handle conflict of interest (jäv). Open positions sometimes have a very specific profile, as if the position is written for a specific person, which is problematic because we may not recruit the best researchers.
- Results from the staff survey, conducted in spring 2016, were presented. The answering frequency was 74% and overall employees are satisfied (68/100). Most satisfied are young employees (<30 years) and old (>68 years) and personnel working for the administration and the library. Interesting results were that employees who had had Medarbetarsamtal, or at least been given the opportunity to have a Medarbetarsamtal, were more satisfied. Main concerns were that we work too much, we feel we have unclear tasks and a lack of balance between our professional and private life. It was concluded that male PhD students in general are more satisfied than female, but no explanation was given.
- The board of SLU approved to initiate the process of building a new greenhouse in Umeå.

Maria Karlsson

*Chairperson SLUSS PhD student council*