



Notes from SLU's board meeting June 15-16th 2016

The first day was held at Lövsta research center. Mats Pehsson, Magnus Källmark and Sigrid Agenäs presented the daily work and research at Lövsta. Strong research areas are minimized use of antibiotics, salmonella free production, animal welfare, and efficient systems for milking. We visited the slaughter house, the dairy cows, and the biogas production. One of the goals is to be independent of fossil fuels by end of 2016.

A workshop on financing of higher academic positions - all positions from PhD and higher - was moderated by Per Andersson. The deans (dekaner) and pro vice-chancellors (vicerektorer) were invited to the workshop. The topic was chosen as many employees at SLU feel insecure about their position and increased security is one of the goals in the new SLU strategy. The perceived financial security may not be the same as the actual security, eg. PhD students feel very insecure about their position but should in fact have secured full financing for minimum four years.

The second day the board meeting took place and the main points on the agenda were:

- Since 2010 the student unions have to seek approval from the university. The procedure is repeated every three years. **The seven existing student unions at SLU were approved for another three years!**
- An **action plan on PhD education was approved**. The action plan was based on the report from the internal audit presented at last SLU board meeting and sent out to SLUSS DN. One of the action points is that the overall responsibility for PhD students' social situation needs to be clarified and coordinated between FUR, FUN, head of department, main supervisor, etc.
- A new **strategy for SLU for 2017-2020 was approved**. During the coming years SLU will invest in four university common research areas: biobased materials, sustainable and secure food production, economy, and the importance of nature and pets for human health and well-being. The strategy has five focus areas: employees, students and education, research infrastructure, collaboration with society, and our common SLU.
- **New guidelines for financial investments** were discussed. One suggestion was that SLU only should invest in companies caring for the environment and good ethics, not investing in fossil fuels, alcohol, tobacco, pornography, and weapons. SLU invests both in national and international funds and I suggested the guidelines should state how much/little should be invested in nation and international markets respectively.
- Urban Eriksson presented the work by **SLU Holding AB**, SLU's investment company. SLU Holding initiates, supports, develops and invests in innovations from SLU.



SLU:S SAMLADE STUDENTKÅRER

- The **university animal hospital** (UDS) has financial issues, unclear organization, and poor leadership. The issues were discussed and the vice-chancellor will take action.
- Erik Fahlbeck gave us an update on how SLU is proceeding in ordering and **building a research vessel**. The budget is limited to 430 MSEK and for now the project is on time and within budget.

Maria Karlsson

Chairperson SLUSS PhD student council