

Notes from SLU's board meeting September 29th 2016

The chairperson of SLU's board Rolf Brennerfelt is on a daily basis General Director of SMHI (the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute) therefore the board meeting was held at SMHI in Norrköping.

Main points on the agenda were:

- The **half year financial statements** (halvårsbokslutet) look unexpectedly good. Main reason for this is the number of personnel has decreased.
- The board got an update on how SLU is proceeding in ordering and **building a research vessel**. The budget is limited to 430 MSK. The project is on time and the research vessel will be operating from early 2019.
- On a yearly basis the planning division at SLU makes **an intelligence analysis (omvärldsanalys) of how well SLU perform in comparison to other universities in Sweden**. At SLU around 40% of all new PhD students are recruited from non-Swedish universities (this figure has been as high as 70%) and the balance between PhD students from Swedish and non-Swedish universities was discussed. The total number of PhD students has decreased over the last years and I requested an analysis of why we see no change in this trend. At SLU, as well as at many other universities in Sweden, around 70% of all PhD students are employed.
- An **action plan for SLU's real estates** from norths to south was decided upon. SLU's real estate holdings include in total buildings closer to 156000 square meter and around 6300 hectare forest and land. Initially the plan suggests selling of unused buildings in Koulpavaare, Öjebyn, Hedemora, Götala, Hallfrede-Stenstugu and Kungsängen.
- Sara Arons, head of Division of Communication, presented her ideas and the working progress for the **communication platform**. Sara concluded that SLU is good at communicating research, but less good at marketing and branding of SLU.
- There has been some minor changes in the Higher Education Act (högskolelagen) and the Higher Education Ordinance (högskoleförordningen) regarding number of **board members**. The total number of board members and student representatives will remain the same, 15 and 3 respectively.

Maria Karlsson

Chairperson SLUSS PhD student council