SLU - organisation and government with focus on doctoral education

Lotta Jäderlund, Division of Planning and Research support

Content

1. Organisation and management of SLU
2. Delegations of authority (delegationsordningar)
3. How is the doctoral education at SLU organised?
4. Who has the responsibility for doctoral education at SLU?
5. Process for quality assurance of education at SLU

Reading tips:

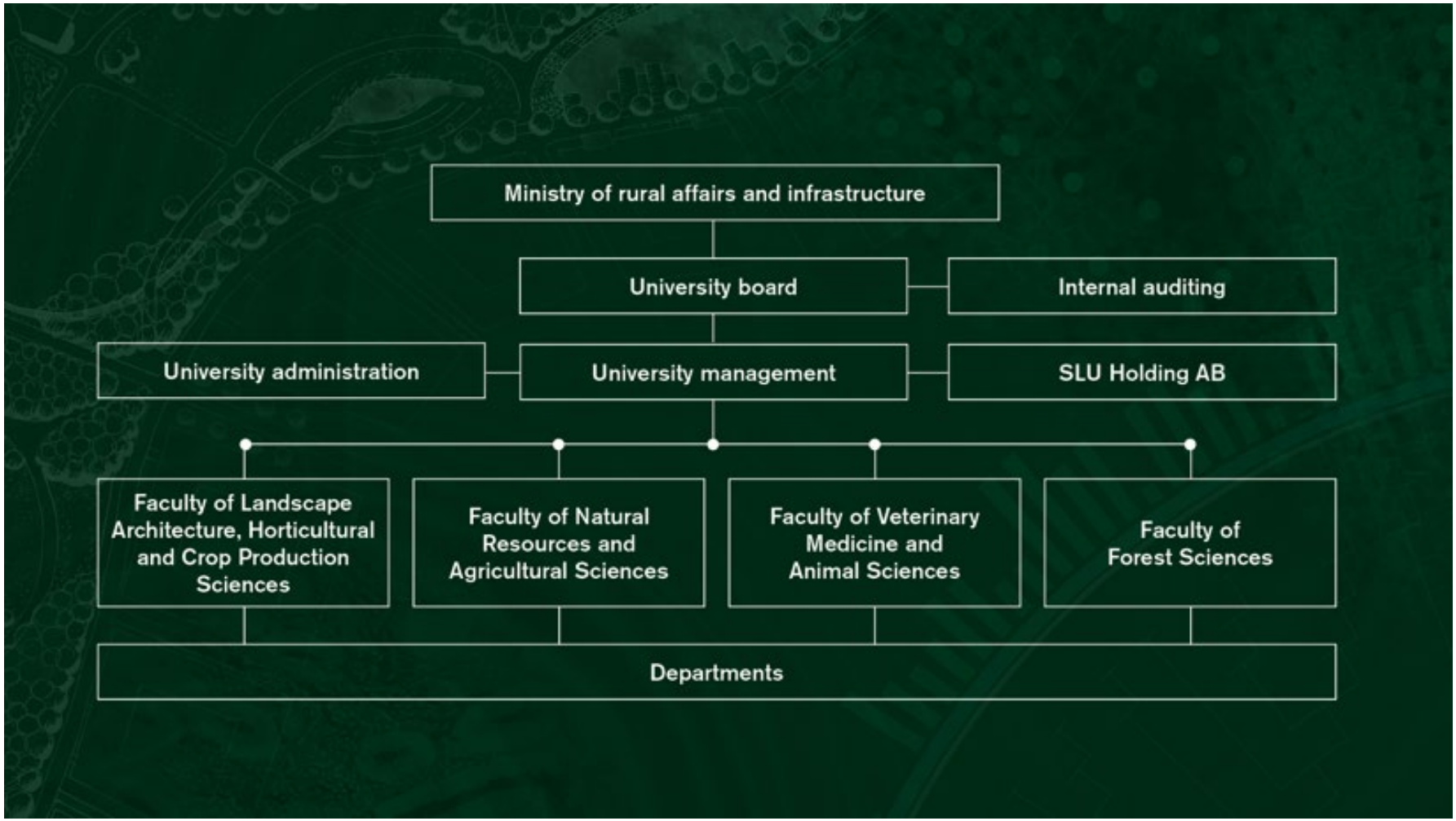
- A Beginner´s Guide to Swedish Academia *(Young Academy of Sweden has developed a guide for international researchers, to help navigate Swedish academia and remove time-consuming obstacles.)*
- The Swedish Research Barometer 2025 – The Swedish research system in international comparison *(Published by VR – the Swedish Research Council).*

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE LIFE

Governance of higher education in Sweden

- Overall responsibility for higher education and research rests with the Swedish Parliament (*sv. Riksdag*) and the Government (*sv. Regering*). These decide on the regulations that apply to the higher education sector, primarily the Higher Education Act and the Higher Education Ordinance. They also allocate resources to the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) (*sv. lärosäten*).

- Almost all HEIs in Sweden are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Research (*Utbildningsdepartmentet*), but SLU is organised under the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure (*Landsbygds- och infrastrukturdepartmentet*).

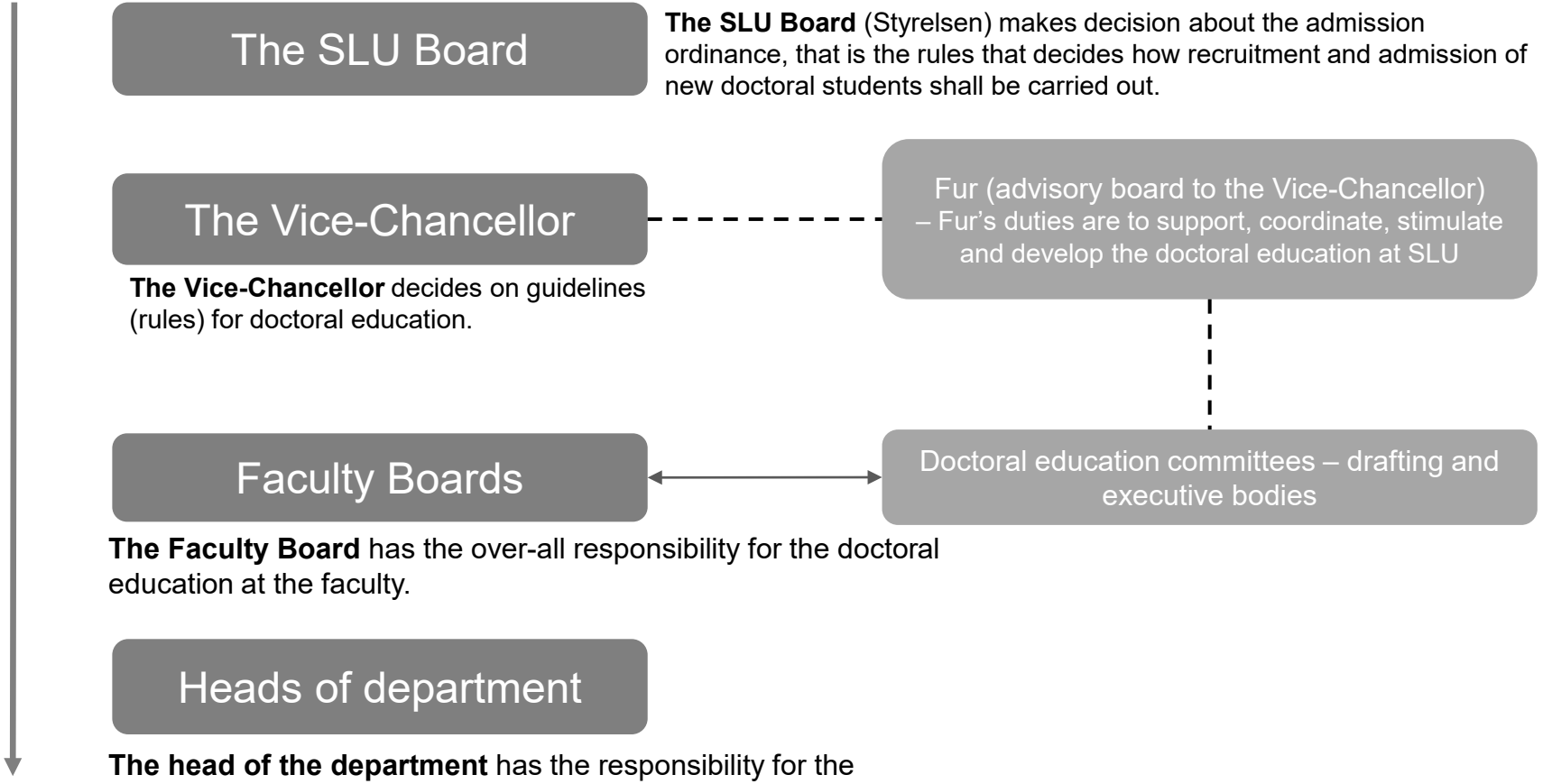

Ministry of rural affairs and infrastructure
University board
Internal auditing
University administration
University management
SLU Holding AB
Faculty of Landscape Architecture, Horticultural and Crop Production Sciences
Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences
Faculty of Forest Sciences
Departments

SLU's delegations of authority (delegationsordningar)

The delegations of authority 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.

- The SLU Board (Styrelsen) is the highest decision-making body at SLU.
- Most decisions are delegated to the four faculty boards.
- Decisions on issues not reserved for the board, or delegated to the faculty boards, are taken by the Vice-Chancellor.
- The Vice-Chancellor in turn delegates authority to the head of university administration to decide on matters in that field.

Doctoral education at SLU – organisation and responsibilities



Who has the responsibility for doctoral education at SLU?

- Each faculty has a doctoral education committee (FUN)/Vice dean that makes decisions on e.g. admission of new doctoral students, change of supervisors and public defence.
- The research schools organise courses and other activities.
- The head of the department has the responsibility for the doctoral education at the department.
- Each department has a director of study/contact person for doctoral education.

Systematic quality assurance within doctoral education at SLU

- Shared standards of quality form the basis of systematic quality assurance work. SLU's quality assurance system is based on national and European guidelines.
- The quality assurance system is based on recurring status reviews and quality dialogues in four-year cycles, occasionally complemented by external evaluation (KoN).
- The work is guided by six quality areas that define the conditions for high-quality doctoral education.
- The process identifies development needs, leads to actions at various organisational levels, and is continuously followed up and documented in quality reports.

More information about the quality assurance of education at SLU can be found at:
Systematic quality assurance within doctoral education.