



University-wide policy decision on teaching and examination as of 15 June 2020 in light of the Covid-19 pandemic

Decision

The vice-chancellor has decided

to allow, effective as of 15 June 2020, teaching and examination at first-cycle and second-cycle level to take place on campus, provided the format complies with the binding recommendations from the Public Health Agency and SLU instructions related to the pandemic;

to ask the chair of the Board of Education to draft new instructions for teaching and examination as a result of this decision;

to instruct heads of departments responsible for courses to guarantee that the delivery of courses, if needed, is adapted to the recommendations and instructions issued;

to instruct the chief operating officer to ensure that the use of pool teaching rooms, including examination halls, is adapted, if needed, to the recommendations and instructions issued;

to repeal, as of 15 June 2020, the vice-chancellor's decision of 30 March 2020 on the transition to distance teaching and examination for first- and second-cycle courses and programmes, placements excepted, due to the current corona pandemic.

Presentation of the matter

Owing to the current corona pandemic, on 17 March 2020, the government and the Public Health Agency of Sweden prescribed that all higher education institutions in Sweden transition to distance teaching and examination as of the following day.

The purpose of this binding recommendation was to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. On 30 March, the vice-chancellor adopted a decision on the transition to distance teaching to remedy the immediate situation, in accordance with the information given to all staff and students at SLU on 17, 18 and 19 March.

Reason for the decision

On 29 May 2020, the Public Health Agency of Sweden revised its recommendation for higher education, effective as of 15 June. As of this date, higher education institutions must, in applicable parts, follow the same binding recommendations as the rest of society.

Significance and foreseeable consequences of the decision

This decision allows certain teaching to take place on campus, provided the recommendations of the Public Health Agency are complied with. Instructions for presence on campus and limitations to campus-based teaching will be drafted as soon as possible and a decision on such instructions adopted by the chair of the Board of Education.

For activities conducted at an SLU department, the responsibility for the work environment rests with the head of department. It is, therefore, appropriate to instruct the heads of department to guarantee that the delivery of courses, if needed, are adapted to the recommendations and instructions in force. The university administration is responsible for pool teaching rooms, including examination halls.

The global situation regarding the pandemic is still very uncertain. The Public Health Agency may change its recommendations with short notice. All operations at SLU must be prepared to handle any new or changed conditions.

This decision has been taken by Vice-Chancellor Maria Knutson Wedel after a presentation by Head of Division Maria Orvehed and in the presence of Chief Operating Officer Martin Melkersson. Education Officer Johan Torén and Academy Secretary Sune Lindh also contributed to the preparation of the case.

Maria Knutson Wedel

Maria Orvehed

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