

## Statement of intent Göran Spong

At SLU, I am primarily engaged in research and research education, but also teach genetics at basic and advanced levels. In my research group we use genetic methods to understand processes in wild vertebrate populations in Europe, Africa, and North America. National and international research bodies, private organizations, and commissions fund our research, where developing improved statistical and genetic methods are also an integral part. As the director of graduate studies at the Forest Faculty, I work with colleagues at many of SLU's campuses. On a more personal level, I find working with research and education incredibly satisfying as I believe knowledge is our society's most precious commodity. Having been a board member for three exciting years, I now look much forward to the opportunity to stay engaged in processes of great importance for SLU's future. As a member from within the university, I believe we have a special responsibility to understand how suggested changes and decisions by the board may affect our organization, faculty, staff, and students. Here three overarching areas are of importance: **1)** that our support system for our research and researchers align with requests by the researchers, who best understand the needs. Strong research environments have strong positive cascading effects for the entire university, **2)** many of our educations are now being remolded to new learning formats, societal needs and expectations from new students. Protecting the quality and alignment with stakeholders are paramount goals in this process, and, **3)** to ensure that SLU's long-term environmental monitoring data series are continued is increasingly important as the human impact on our planet increases. The value of these data will only continue to increase. For all of the above, basic guiding principles should be open discussion, evidence-based decision support, thorough impact analyses, transparent decision chains, and rational distribution models, where success and judicious strategic efforts are favored.