Letter of intent

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SLU addresses the future major challenges of our planet by contributing world-class research, education, and environmental assessment to society. The best way to uphold and strengthen our position in these important areas is by providing our staff with employment security, a good working environment, academic freedom, and predictable resources to carry out long-term activities.

As a member of the Board I would represent ALL teachers and researchers at SLU. While the vision of *One SLU* has mainly focused on overcoming the geographical challenges of our university, I find it equally important to create a greater sense of communion between seniors and juniors, researchers and teachers, women and men, and Swedish and English speakers. A flatter organization, equal opportunities for real, and full bilingualism are some important aspects that can contribute to realizing the vision of *One SLU*.

I have been active as a student and researcher in Umeå (10 years, UmU/SLU), Ultuna (7 years), and Alnarp (5 years and counting), and have experienced the strengths and challenges of all these campuses. The previous sense of provincialism and parochialism at our campuses has gradually been reduced, partially owing to improved infrastructure for communication and the new faculty structures. However, more integration would be desirable and could be achieved by improved mobility opportunities for students and staff, as well as more virtual opportunities for education and research.

SLU can and should have an even stronger position at the global arena. It is important to strengthen our ties with other world-class universities within our fields. We should promote international exchange at all levels, and make it easier for students and doctoral candidates from all parts of the world (not least the developing parts) to graduate from SLU. Inter-university agreements and investments, less regulations, and using English as our working and teaching language would facilitate this process.