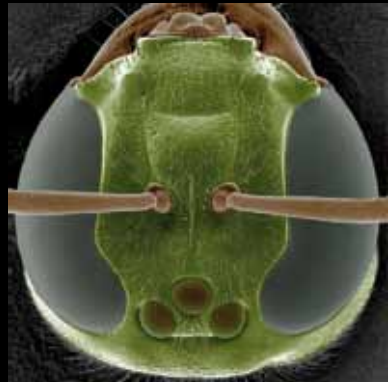
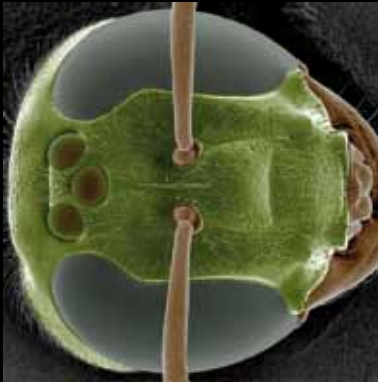
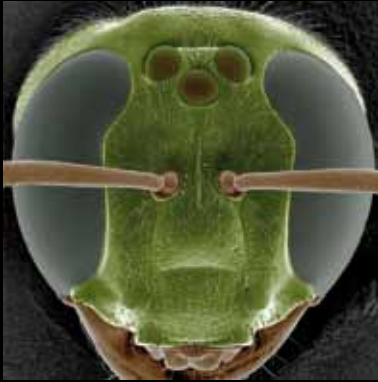


... curiosity makes
people grow ...



Strategic Plan 2010-2013

Faculty of Science
Lund University

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Footnote.
The strategic plan was adopted
by the Faculty Board on 16 De-
cember 2009.

Foreword

This strategic plan shall be seen as a summary of the distinctive features of our activities; both what we are proud of – the quality of our research and teaching and the crucial role of science in future social development – and what we want to communicate to our students and the surrounding community. We also want to highlight the paths we want to take to reach our goals.

Why is there a Faculty of Science at Lund University? What distinguishes our faculty from others? What special values do we have as scientists? And how do we want our activities to develop in the future? There are probably both simple and very complex answers to these questions. However, first and foremost there are many different answers and ideas. For me it is obvious that unrestricted curiosity-based research is and will remain a key feature of our activities.

I hope that this document communicates the values and visions that characterise all strategic decisions made by the Faculty management and the Faculty Board. An earlier version of this strategic plan was sent to the departments for consultation during autumn 2009. Many of the views and comments that were submitted have influenced the final document. The plan can nevertheless be said to mainly reflect the values and visions of the Faculty management because the main work on the strategy document has taken place in the Faculty management group, which now also includes most of the Faculty's heads of department.

Torbjörn von Schantz
Dean of the Faculty of Science

Nebula NGC 2467. Photo: ESO.



... among the billions of stars...

Values

... we want to understand the world...

Science is critically seeking knowledge and is driven by a fascination that we can actually understand how the world works. Science describes the world without having to resort to mysticism or superstition. Science strives to come up with non-contradictory descriptions of reality, with clear cause and effect relationships that can be verified or rejected. The link between theory and experiment is central. Science is of fundamental importance to how we construct our society.

... we dare to question and scrutinise reality...

Critical thinking is in focus. Science builds on critical review of both one's own and others' results. The scientific approach encompasses respect for colleagues' opinions, even on controversial issues.

... our curiosity contributes to humanity's cultural heritage...

Scientific research is curiosity-driven and unbiased, with an awareness that society is its customer. Science strives to develop knowledge as a part of humanity's cultural heritage. Our education and research are important to pass on knowledge to future generations.

Close-up of nocturnal bee. Photo: Rita Wallén.



... are fascinating forms of life...

Visions

... our research shall be characterised by high international quality...

The Faculty's research is grounded in individual researchers' curiosity and enthusiasm. The Faculty management shall support this by organising the activities of the Faculty into a number of strong research and education environments, where department and faculty boundaries do not create obstacles and where the activities have long-term financing. The Faculty shall promote diversity in its research.

... our education shall have a clear identity and be in demand...

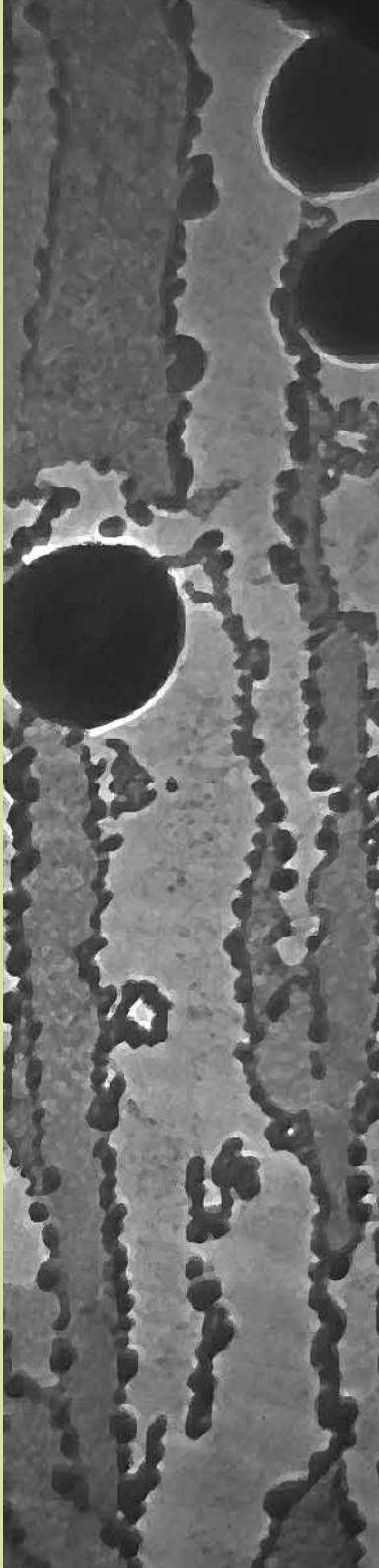
Our education is the responsibility of all employees. The Faculty's teaching shall be characterised by strong links to research and relevance to society and have a critical basis. Teaching shall be enjoyable and encourage curiosity and be based on the conviction that the students must actively develop their own understanding. The teaching shall be supported by a strong and well-coordinated organisation.

The Faculty's education shall provide students with breadth and depth, as well as tools to understand the world around them. Science is descriptive, analytical and experimental; laboratory sessions, field studies and simulations shall be important elements of our courses and programmes. The Faculty's education shall be well financed and have a clear identity, as well as a high number of applicants per place and lecturers who are active in research.

... we shall be a significant player in society...

We shall place major emphasis on cooperation with the surrounding community and make clear how important science is for social development. Our researchers' varied knowledge and skills shall be well known and in demand in society. Our students' varied knowledge and skills shall be well known and in demand on the job market. Our staff and students shall act as good ambassadors for science.

Self-propelled drops of the element gallium. Photo: Anders Mikkelsen/Emelie Hilner.



... and undreamt-of forces to explore...

Goals and action for the next 3–5 years

Goal:

The Faculty's staff, doctoral students and students shall experience job satisfaction and a sense of involvement. We strive to counteract territorial mindsets and to encourage unrestricted striving for cross-disciplinary skills. We shall create the conditions for strategic discussions at all levels.

Action:

- Have balanced finances and long-term planning of activities.
- Have a long-term and immediate human resources plan all the way down to the individual level.
- Develop meeting places for students, doctoral students and staff.
- Analyse successful environments that could serve as models for us.
- Actively pick up on discussions and analyses in the Faculty by means of well functioning management structures with open dialogue between all levels.

Goal:

The Faculty strives to recruit skilled employees who together help create a stimulating environment that encourages development.

Action:

- In recruitment, prioritise skill, enthusiasm and sense of responsibility.
- Each time a post is to be advertised, consider the possibilities of both internal and external recruitment.
- Observe equal opportunities in every decision on all levels.
- Draw up employment contracts.
- Give those who are recruited opportunities for development by providing support, e.g. in the form of mentors or support for admission of doctoral students.

Goal:

A coherent education that gives students and doctoral students relevant knowledge and skills and high employability. The Faculty's courses and programmes shall be highly attractive.

Action:

- Study programmes and research programmes boards at departmental and faculty levels take responsibility for the holistic perspective with regard to the subject matter of programmes and courses.
- Continually test new ideas to improve our education.
- Make clear different ways to achieve the aims of programmes and courses.
- Develop a mentorship system for our students in the first, second and third cycles.
- Explain the skills our students and researchers have to employers.
- Develop opportunities for degree projects and thesis projects in the public and business sectors.
- Facilitate our students' and researchers' establishment on the job market through expanded careers advice.
- Fully develop the Faculty's alumni activities and use alumni as a source of information and inspiration.

Goal:

Students and doctoral students shall participate in the development of all the Faculty's courses and programmes.

Action:

- Follow up the student barometer, doctoral student barometer, supervisor barometer and alumni survey. The results of these evaluations shall support the development of our activities.
- Work to maintain strong student influence through the Lund Science Students' Union (LUNA) and the Science Doctoral Student Council.

Goal:

The Faculty shall continue to develop strong collaboration with the surrounding community with the aim of passing on scientific knowledge to society and creating interest in scientific subjects. Our visibility and dialogue with the community must increase. The Faculty's employees shall have a good ability to explain and justify the contents of both research and education.

Action:

- Establish an advisory group for external relations activities, which is to coordinate cooperation with the surrounding community without stifling individual initiatives.
- Develop the Faculty's website in order to make research and education more visible.
- Develop school cooperation projects aimed at younger pupils.
- Support our researchers in the work to popularise research results and in meetings with journalists.
- Encourage our researchers to contribute to adult education, share their expertise and participate in the social debate.
- Develop communication with the business sector, politicians and funding bodies by encouraging our researchers to establish their own contacts with these customers.
- More articles and features in the mass media on research, education and collaboration at our Faculty.

Chat about the future!

Would you like to discuss the Faculty of Science's
future and activities with the management?
Why not book a coffee break chat with the Dean of
the Faculty for your research group or division?
Please contact Olov Sterner (Dean as from 1 January 2012)
on +46 (0)46 222 82 13
or by email, Olov.Sterner@organic.lu.se.



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