

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and
Technology

Meeting No 9/2023

Meeting date 26 October 2023

1 (35)

Date and time 26 October 2023, 13.00-14.45

Place/venue Teams

Participants	Role	Present at the items
Members		
Lehtinen Kari	Dean, Chair	
Hauta-Kasari Markku	1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair	7-17
Kukkonen Jussi	2nd Vice Dean	1-17, Chair
Hujala Teppo	Professor, member	
Tuittila Eeva-Stiina	Professor, deputy member	1-17
Lehto Vesa-Pekka	Professor, member	1-17
Kuittinen Markku	Professor, deputy member	
Jänis Janne	Professor, member	
Pumpanen Jukka	Professor, deputy member	
Berninger Frank	Professor, member	
Tedre Matti	Professor, deputy member	1-17
Miettinen Pauli	Professor, member	1-17
Tuomela Jukka	Professor, deputy member	
Tanska Petri	Other staff, member	
Haapala Antti	Other staff, deputy member	
Mononen Maini	Other staff, member	1-6 ja 11-17
Turunen Mikael	Other staff, deputy member	
Virrantalo Tarja	Other staff, member	1-6 ja 11-17
Kopra Juho	Other staff, deputy member	

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Pohjoismäki Jaakko	Other staff, member	1-17
Asikainen Mervi	Other staff, deputy member	
Vainikainen Hanne	Other staff, member	1-6 ja 11-17
Kumlin Timo	Other staff, deputy member	
Kortelainen Jenni	Student, member	
Miettinen Ville	Student, deputy member	1-6 ja 11-17
Kipriianov Pavel	Student, member	
Ovaskainen Juha-Matti	Student, deputy member	
Pitkänen Teppo	Student, member	1-6 ja 11-17
Mudashiru Busurat	Student, deputy member	1-6 ja 11-17
Mahad Abdirisaag Amin	Student, member	1-6 ja 11-17
Kukkonen Riku	Student, deputy member	
Partanen Silja	Student, member	1-6 ja 11-17
Rautiainen Kaisa	Student, deputy member	
Hirvonen Arja	Executive Head of Administration, secretary, preparer	1-17
Other preparers		
Laitinen Kaisa	Head of Training	1-17
Merimaa-Piirainen Maarit	Head of Student Services	1-3
Other participants		
Ryyänen-Karjalainen Lea	Executive Director, Chair of the UEF Board	1-3

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Pesonen Erkki	University Lecturer, Member of the UEF Board	1-3
Rintamäki Petri	General Council and Director, Secretary to the UEF Board	1-3

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Items to be discussed at the meeting

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1

Opening of the meeting

The chair opened the meeting at 13.00.

2

Legitimacy and presence of a quorum

In accordance with the UEF University Regulations, meeting notices of a multi-member administrative organ must be sent at least seven days prior to the meeting, unless the administrative organ has decided otherwise.

The meeting notice was sent on 19 October 2023.

According to the UEF University Regulations, multi-member organs of the university have a quorum when at least half of the members, including the chair, are present. By the decision of the chair, a multi-member administrative organ can hold its meeting by email or, either fully or in part, via a video conference, telephone, or some other remote participation means. The chair has decided that the meeting be organised via Teams.

Motion The meeting is deemed lawful and quorate. The agenda is approved.

Decision As proposed. The order of items on the agenda was changed so that the items Faculty Council meetings in the spring semester 2024, For information, Closing of the meeting and Translation of the agenda/minutes were placed after the supplementary items.

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3

Hearing of the Faculty Council on the organisation and selection of the university's rectors

The terms of office of the Rector and the Academic Rector will end on 31 December 2024. The UEF Board has launched measures to start the recruitment processes but wishes to hear the university community extensively on the matter before the actual application process begins. The purpose of the hearings is to establish the rector model that is favoured by the university community. The UEF Board also wishes to hear what would be the best model for the organisation of the rectors (including their number and responsibilities) from the perspective of the university's strategy. The Board will hear the Faculty Councils on the matter during October.

Motion The UEF Board will consult the Faculty Council on the organisation and selection of the university's rectors.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 3420/01.01.02/2023

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

4

Description of the post of Professor, Atmospheric Chemistry, and the Dean's proposal to invite Associate Professor Siegfried Schobesberger to the position. Hearing of the Faculty Council

PhD Siegfried Schobesberger has been appointed to the Tenure Track position of Associate Professor, Atmospheric Chemistry, for the period 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2023. The post is hosted by the faculty's Department of Technical Physics.

An evaluation committee acted as the faculty's appointments committee referred to in section 30 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland. The committee was chaired by Vice Dean Jussi Kukkonen, whilst the members included the Head of the Department of Technical Physics Professor Jari Kaipio and the Head of the Department of Physics and Mathematics Professor Jyrki Saarinen. Executive Head of Administration Arja Hirvonen acted as the administrative expert.

Based on the submitted documents and an interview, the evaluation committee came to the conclusion that the legal prerequisites to initiate the invitation procedure are met and that Associate Professor Siegfried Schobesberger can be invited to a professorship in his field. The Tenure Track committee supported the matter at its e-mail meeting on 18 October 2023.

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The memorandum of the evaluation committee and Schobesberger's CV, teaching portfolio, and list of publications are enclosed with the agenda item as appendices.

According to section 33 of the Universities Act (558/2009), the professorship may be filled by invitation without a public notice of vacancy when an academically distinguished person is being invited to take the position or a candidate is appointed to the position for a fixed period. Only a person who indisputably fulfils the qualification requirements may be appointed to the post by invitation.

According to section 31 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, a person to be appointed to a permanent professorship or to a professorship that lasts for over two years shall be scientifically or artistically qualified, have good teaching skills and, if important for the successful performance of their duties, practical knowledge of the scope of the post.

According to section 10 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Dean will decide on the scope and specifications of the professor's position after consulting the Faculty Council. The Dean will decide whether the professor is required to have practical knowledge of the scope of the post. The Dean will make a proposal to the Rector on a person to be appointed as a professor for two years or more after consulting the Faculty Council.

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The description of the post includes the scope and specifications of the post, as required by the University Regulations, and a proposal on a person to be invited to the post.

The professor is not expected to have practical knowledge of the scope of the post.

A draft description of the post is enclosed with this agenda item as an appendix. The person proposed to be invited to the post has accepted the description and specifications of the post.

Motion The Faculty Council will discuss the description of the post of Professor, Atmospheric Chemistry, and the Dean's proposal on the person to be invited to it.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Evaluation memorandum of the evaluation team, Siegfried Schobesberger
Appendix 2	Siegfried Schobesberger's CV
Appendix 3	Siegfried Schobesberger's teaching portfolio
Appendix 4	Siegfried Schobesberger's list of publications
Appendix 5	Draft description of the post, Atmospheric Chemistry

Record entry 3953/01.01.02/2023

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

5

The scope and specifications of the post of the Associate Professor of Material Technology, in particular Battery Technology, that will become vacant at the Faculty. Hearing of the Faculty Council

As prepared by the Faculty and the Department of Technical Physics, preparations are made to open a call for applications to the post of Associate Professor, Material Technology, in particular battery technology. The post is intended to be filled with bridge funding starting on 1 May 2024.

According to section 11 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will discuss proposals regarding the scope and specifications of posts that comply with the four-stage career model of the faculty's permanent and Tenure Track positions.

The description of the post is as follows:

The field of the post of the Associate Professor is material technology, in particular battery technology. The research focuses, in particular, on battery materials and on the development of materials and technologies that reduce the carbon footprint of battery cells used in batteries. The post requires strong expertise in battery material technology. The post of the Associate Professor strengthens the university's research in material

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technology and supports the implementation and development of Master's level education in technical physics. The duties of the Associate Professor include the acquisition of external research funding, the launching and management of research projects, high-quality publishing activities in the field, and related teaching and supervision duties. The language of instruction in the post is English. The post will be hosted by the Department of Technical Physics at the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology on the Kuopio campus.

Motion The Faculty Council will discuss the scope and specifications of the post of the Associate Professor that will become vacant at the faculty.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 3429/01.08.00/2023

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

6

Granting the title of docent to PhD Jacques Cuenca in the field of Computational methods for acoustic material characterisation

PhD Jacques Cuenca has applied for the title of docent in the field of Computational methods for acoustic material characterisation at the Department of Technical Physics of the University of Eastern Finland's Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology. PhD Cuenca's application and related attachments are enclosed with the agenda item as appendices.

Professor Ville Kolehmainen, Deputy Head of the Department of Technical Physics, has supported PhD Cuenca's application for the title of docent in his statement of 16 October 2023 (Appendix).

In accordance with section 89 of the Universities Act 558/2009, the university may award the title of docent upon application to a person who has comprehensive knowledge of his or her own field, a capacity for independent research or artistic work demonstrated through publications or in some other manner, and good teaching skills.

According to section 9(8) of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council shall decide on awarding the title of docent.

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According to [the Faculty's guidelines of 8 June 2023](#) (page 3), a statement shall be requested, where required, on the applicant's scientific qualification from two external experts. PhD Jacques Cuenca's application lists his merits as an independent researcher and shows that he has established his own line of research. Research in the field of the present docentship has been systematic and is still active. This is demonstrated, e.g., by the applicant's contribution to the key journals that are relevant to the present docentship. Based on PhD Cuenca's scientific merits, [the Dean decided on 18 October 2023](#) that an external evaluation procedure is not required to verify his scientific qualification.

A person to be awarded the title of docent is required to have good teaching skills (Universities Act 558/2009, section 89). The Dean may exempt the applicant from the requirement to give a trial lecture, provided that the applicant's teaching skills have been verified earlier. Based on the information contained in PhD Jacques Cuenca's application for the title of docent, he has since 2006 and continues to have diverse experience of university-level teaching and supervision and demonstrated achievements in teaching planning. He also has pedagogical training. On the basis of the above, [the Dean decided on 18 October 2023](#) that PhD Cuenca does not need to give a trial lecture for the title of docent he has applied for.

Motion

The Faculty Council states that PhD Jacques Cuenca meets the criteria set out in the Universities Act for the title of docent and grants him the title of docent at the University of Eastern Finland in the field of Computational methods for acoustic material characterisation as of 1 November 2023.

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Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 6	Jacques Cuenca's title of docent application
Appendix 7	Appendices to Jacques Cuenca's title of docent application
Appendix 8	Statement of the Deputy Head of the Department

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Record entry 28/03.04.09/2023

Prepared by Kaisa Laitinen

7

Grading MSc Lulu Deng's doctoral dissertation in the field of Applied Physics

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 18 of the standing orders of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology on degrees and studies, doctoral dissertations are graded on the scale pass – pass with distinction.

MSc Lulu Deng's doctoral dissertation and study "[Development of Clinical-Scale Prototype Ultrasound-Guided Hemispherical Phased Arrays for Transcranial Focused Ultrasound Therapy](#)" was examined publicly on 11 October 2023. The opponent, Professor Cheri Deng (Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Philosophy and proposes the grade Pass with distinction. The preliminary examiners of the dissertation, Professor J. Brian Fowlkes (Basic Radiological Sciences Division, Department of Radiology, University of Michigan, USA) and Associate Professor Gianmarco Pinton (The Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University, USA), agree with the grade proposed by the opponent.

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According to section 44 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), before a doctoral dissertation is graded, the author must be given an opportunity to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the statements of the opponent and the preliminary examiners, which are enclosed with this agenda item as appendices.

According to section 29 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), a study attainment may be assessed only by those members or deputy members of a multi-member administrative body who have a degree or completed study attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors.

Motion Based on the statements, the Faculty Council grades MSc Lulu Deng's dissertation as Pass with distinction.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 9	Statement of opponent Cheri Deng
Appendix 10	Preliminary examiner J. Brian Fowlkes' opinion on the proposed grade
Appendix 11	Preliminary examiner Gianmarco Pinton's opinion on the proposed grade

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Record entry 28/03.04.09/2023

Prepared by Kaisa Laitinen

8

Grading MSc Tiina Kolari's doctoral dissertation in the field of Biology

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 18 of the standing orders of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology on degrees and studies, doctoral dissertations are graded on the scale pass – pass with distinction.

MSc Tiina Kolari's doctoral dissertation and study [Recent and potential future trends in vegetation changes in northern and middle boreal mires](#) was examined publicly on 6 October 2023. The opponent, Docent Minna Väiliranta (Ecosystems and Environment Research Programme, University of Helsinki) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Philosophy and proposes the grade Pass.

According to section 44 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), before a doctoral dissertation is graded, the author must be given an opportunity to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the doctoral statement, which is enclosed with this agenda item as an appendix.

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According to section 29 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), a study attainment may be assessed only by those members or deputy members of a multi-member administrative body who have a degree or completed study attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors.

Motion Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MSc Tiina Kolari's dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 12 Statement by opponent Minna Välliranta

Record entry 28/03.04.09/2023

Prepared by Kaisa Laitinen

9

Grading MSc (Econ. & Bus.Adm.) Anu Laakkonen's doctoral dissertation in the field of Forestry

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 18 of the standing orders of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology on degrees and studies, doctoral dissertations are graded on the scale pass – pass with distinction.

MSc (Econ. & Bus.Adm.) Anu Laakkonen's doctoral dissertation and study [On the reconfiguring value creation logic and networks of the forest sector in a changing business environment](#) was examined publicly on 29 September 2023. The opponent, Dean Professor Robert Kozak (Faculty of Forestry, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Agriculture and Forestry and proposes the grade Pass with distinction. The preliminary examiners Dean Professor Arto Rajala (School of Marketing and Communication, University of Vaasa, Vaasa) and researcher-teacher Anni Tuppurä (LUT Business School, LUT University, Lappeenranta) agree with the grade proposed by the opponent.

According to section 44 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), before a doctoral dissertation is graded, the author must be given an opportunity

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to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the statements of the opponent and the preliminary examiners, which are enclosed with this agenda item as appendices.

According to section 29 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), a study attainment may be assessed only by those members or deputy members of a multi-member administrative body who have a degree or completed study attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors.

Motion Based on the statements, the Faculty Council grades MSc (Econ. & Bus.Adm.) Anu Laakkonen's doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Appendix 13 | Statement by opponent Robert Kozak |
| Appendix 14 | Preliminary examiner Arto Rajala's opinion on the proposed grade |
| Appendix 15 | Preliminary examiner Anni Tuppurä's opinion on the proposed grade |

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Record entry 28/03.04.09/2023

Prepared by Kaisa Laitinen

10

Grading MSc Mazhar Mohsini's doctoral dissertation in the field of Computer Science

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 18 of the standing orders of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology on degrees and studies, doctoral dissertations are graded on the scale pass – pass with distinction.

MSc Mazhar Mohsini's dissertation and study [Deep learning based real-time defect detection, classification, and segmentation methods for industrial quality control](#) was publicly examined on 29 September 2023.

The opponent, Associate Professor Miguel Bordallo López (The Center for Machine Vision and Signal Analysis (CMVS), University of Oulu, Oulu) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Philosophy and proposes the grade Pass.

According to section 44 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), before a doctoral dissertation is graded, the author must be given an opportunity to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the doctoral statement, which is enclosed with this agenda item as an appendix.

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According to section 29 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), a study attainment may be assessed only by those members or deputy members of a multi-member administrative body who have a degree or completed study attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors.

Motion Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MSc Mazhar Mohsini's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 16 Opponent Miguel Bordallo López's statement

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Prepared by Kaisa Laitinen

11

Grading MSc Chengmin Zhou's doctoral dissertation in the field of Computer Science

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 18 of the standing orders of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology on degrees and studies, doctoral dissertations are graded on the scale pass – pass with distinction.

MSc Chengmin Zhou's doctoral dissertation and study [Deep Reinforcement Learning for Crowd-Aware Robotic Navigation](#) was examined publicly on 19 October 2023. The opponent, Professor Juha Röning (Faculty of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, University of Oulu, Oulu) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Philosophy and proposes the grade Pass.

According to section 44 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), before a doctoral dissertation is graded, the author must be given an opportunity to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the doctoral statement, which is enclosed with this agenda item as an appendix.

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According to section 29 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), a study attainment may be assessed only by those members or deputy members of a multi-member administrative body who have a degree or completed study attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors.

Motion Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MSc Chengmin Zhou's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 17 Statement by opponent Juha Rönning

Record entry 28/03.04.09/2023

Prepared by Kaisa Laitinen

12

Grading MSc Tuomas Karhu's doctoral dissertation in the field of applied physics

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 18 of the standing orders of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology on degrees and studies, doctoral dissertations are graded on the scale pass – pass with distinction.

MSc Tuomas Karhu's doctoral dissertation and study [Nocturnal hypoxic load in the evaluation of the progression of sleep apnea](#) was examined publicly on 29 September 2023. The opponent, Associate Professor Mathias Baumert (School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, the University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Philosophy and proposes a grade Pass with distinction. The preliminary examiners of the doctoral dissertation, Associate Professor Craig Phillips (Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia) and Assistant Professor Ankit Parekh (Department of Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, USA), agree with the grade proposed by the opponent.

According to section 44 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), before a doctoral dissertation is graded, the author must be given an opportunity

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to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the statements of the opponent and the preliminary examiners, which are enclosed with this agenda item as appendices.

According to section 29 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), a study attainment may be assessed only by those members or deputy members of a multi-member administrative body who have a degree or completed study attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors.

Motion Based on the statements, the Faculty Council grades MSc Tuomas Karhu's doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 18	Statement by the opponent Mathias Baumert
Appendix 19	The opinion of preliminary examiner Ankit Parekh on the proposed grade
Appendix 20	The opinion of preliminary examiner Craig Phillips on the proposed grade

Record entry 28/03.04.09/2023

Prepared by Kaisa Laitinen

13

Grading MSc Xuechen Liu's doctoral dissertation in the field of Computer Science

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 18 of the standing orders of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology on degrees and studies, doctoral dissertations are graded on the scale pass – pass with distinction.

MSc Xuechen Liu's doctoral dissertation and study "[Advances in Deep Speaker Verification: a study on robustness, portability, and security](#)" was publicly examined on 18 October 2023. The opponent, Assistant Professor Lauri Juvela (Department of Information and Communications Engineering, Aalto University, Espoo) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Philosophy and proposes the grade Pass.

According to section 44 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), before a doctoral dissertation is graded, the author must be given an opportunity to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the doctoral statement, which is enclosed with this agenda item as an appendix.

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According to section 29 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), a study attainment may be assessed only by those members or deputy members of a multi-member administrative body who have a degree or completed study attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors.

Motion Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MSc Xuechen Liu's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 21 Statement of opponent Lauri Juvela

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Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

11

Faculty Council meetings in the spring semester 2024

The meetings of the spring semester 2024 are proposed to be held as follows:

Wed 17 January at 13:00-

Thu 22 February at 13:00-

Wed 20 March at 13:00-

Wed 17 April at 13:00-

Wed 15 May at 13:00-

Wed 19 June at 13:00-

Motion The Faculty Council approves the proposed meeting schedule for the autumn semester 2024.

Decision As proposed.

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12

For information

Statistics on the faculty's Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees on 20 October 2023 (appendix)

The doctoral dissertation overview of the faculty dated 13 October 2023: graduates in green, those with permission to defend their dissertation in a public examination in yellow, and those who have started their dissertation in blue (appendix)

[Decision of the Director of Administration of 21 September 2023](#) on the appointment of the representatives of the University of Eastern Finland to the working group (Teppo Hujala) and the steering group (Irmeli Mustalahti) of the North Karelia Biosphere Reserve for the period 1 January 2024-31 December 2027

Topical faculty matters.

Motion Marked for information.

Decision As proposed.

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Appendix 22	Degree Statistics 20 October 2023
Appendix 23	Doctoral dissertation overview 13 October 2023
Appendix 24	Decision of the Director of Administration 21 September 2023

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Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and
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Meeting No 9/2023

Meeting date 26 October 2023

34 (35)

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Closing of the meeting

The chair closed the meeting at 14.45.

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and
Technology

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35 (35)

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Translation of the agenda/minutes

The English translation of the agenda/minutes of the meeting is attached
to the agenda item.