

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and
Technology

Meeting No 4/2024

Meeting date 17 April 2024

1 (30)

Date and time 17 April 2024 13.00-13.39

Place Teams

Participants	Role	Present at the items
Members		
Lehtinen Kari	Dean, Chair	1-14
Hauta-Kasari Markku	1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair	
Kukkonen Jussi	2nd Vice Dean	
Hujala Teppo	Professor, member	
Tuittila Eeva-Stiina	Professor, deputy member	
Lehto Vesa-Pekka	Professor, member	1-14
Kuittinen Markku	Professor, deputy member	
Jänis Janne	Professor, member	1-14
Pumpanen Jukka	Professor, deputy member	
Berninger Frank	Professor, member	
Tedre Matti	Professor, deputy member	1-14
Miettinen Pauli	Professor, member	1-14
Tuomela Jukka	Professor, deputy member	
Tanska Petri	Other staff, member	1-14
Haapala Antti	Other staff, deputy member	
Mononen Maini	Other staff, member	
Turunen Mikael	Other staff, deputy member	1-14
Virranta Tarja	Other staff, member	1-7 and 11-14

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Kopra Juho	Other staff, deputy member	
Pohjoismäki Jaakko	Other staff, member	1-14
Asikainen Mervi	Other staff, deputy member	
Vainikainen Hanne	Other staff, member	1-7 and 11-14
Kumlin Timo	Other staff, deputy member	
Merruntaus Kati	Student, member	1-7 and 11-14
Ahtonen Tiina	Student, deputy member	
Palkovuori Teemu	Student, member	1-7 and 11-14
Törö Teemu	Student, deputy member	1-7 and 11-14
Partanen Silja	Student, member	
Miettinen Mikko	Student, deputy member	1-7 and 11-14
Jankova Simona	Student, member	1-7 and 11-14
Rautiainen Kaisa	Student, deputy member	
Helvelahti Tomi	Student, member	1-7 and 11-14
Sheng Li	Student, deputy member	1-7 and 11-14
Hirvonen Arja	Executive Head of Administration, secretary, preparer	1-14
Other preparers		
Laitinen Kaisa	Head of Training	
Merimaa-Piirainen Maarit	Head of Student Services	1-14

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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 10 April 2024.

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 autumn semester 2024, For information, Closing of the meeting and Translation of the agenda/minutes were placed after the supplementary item.

Record entry no 208/01.01.02/2024

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

§ 3

Description of the post of Professor, Biomass Production and Plantation Forestry and the Dean's proposal to invite Associate Professor Blas Mola to the post. Hearing of the Faculty Council

DSc (Agr. & For.), Docent Blas Mola has been appointed to the Tenure Track position of Associate Professor, Biomass Production and Plantation Forestry, for the period 1 August 2020 – 31 July 2024. The position will be hosted by the faculty's School of Forest Sciences.

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 Dean Kari Lehtinen, whilst the members included Head of the School of Forest Sciences, Research Director Jukka Tikkanen and Professor Elina Oksanen from the Department of Environmental and Biological Sciences.

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 Blas Mola can be invited to a professorship in his field. The Tenure Track committee supported the matter at its meeting held on 4 April 2024.

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The memorandum of the evaluation committee and Mola'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, Biomass Production and Plantation Forestry, and the Dean's proposal on the person to be invited to it.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Memorandum of the evaluation committee Blas Mola
Appendix 2	Blas Mola's CV
Appendix 3	Blas Mola's teaching portfolio
Appendix 4	Blas Mola's list of publications
Appendix 5	Description of the post Biomass Production and Plantation Forestry

Record entry no 153/01.01.03/2024

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

§ 4

The Dean's proposal on the person to be appointed as University Lecturer, information technology. Hearing of the Faculty Council

According to section 9 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 teaching and research staff and Tenure Track positions. The description of the post of University Lecturer, information technology, was approved at the Faculty Council meeting of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology on 17 January 2024.

The post will be hosted by the School of Computing at the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology on the Joensuu campus.

An open call for applications was organised for the post. By the deadline of 29 February 2024, applications were submitted by Abbass Mohammed, Abedi Meysam, Abro Waheed Ahmed, Achimugu Philip, Adnan Muhammad, Ahmad Imtiaz, Ahmad Ishteyaaq, Alam Mahtab, Alkhalidy Mohammed, Alshameri Hamza Mutaher Abdu, Asiaei Arash, Atoui Amine, Chakraborty Shounak, Choudhary Gulraiz Iqbal, Das Teerath, Dembele Simon Pierre, Faheem Muhammad, Gokcay Erhan, Ilievbare Godson, Jayswal Hardikkumar, Jussi Koskinen, Kılınç Soylu Gökem, Olaniyan Deborah, Olaniyan Julius, P Joseph Dr.Niju, Pyae Aung, Rahman Anis Ur,

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Ray Paramita, Saif A F M Saifuddin, Sattar Muhammad Awais, Shah Himat, Shaheen Safdar, Sharma B. Lungsi, Subramanian Dr. Rajesh and Yigzaw Samuel.

Professor Markku Tukiainen, Head of the School of Computing, proposes in the summary of his selection memorandum that PhD Samuel Yigzaw be appointed to the vacant post as from 1 May 2024 until further notice.

Markku Tukiainen, Head of the School, and Simo Juvaste, Deputy Head of the School, propose that PhD Samuel Yigzaw be exempted from the requirement to give a trial lecture on the grounds that he has teaching experience and has received good evaluations from students as regards teaching.

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

Persons to be appointed as University Lecturers must hold a suitable doctoral degree and have good teaching skills (University Regulations, section 31). The language of instruction in the post is English.

The Dean of the faculty has exempted PhD Samuel Yigzaw from the requirement to give a trial lecture on the grounds that he has sufficient practical experience in university level teaching at the University of Eastern Finland and, therefore, the good teaching skills required by the post of a university lecturer have been demonstrated.

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PhD Samuel Yigzaw meets the qualification requirements of a university lecturer, as referred to in the UEF University Regulations, and the prerequisites laid down in the specifications of the post.

The Dean of the faculty proposes to the Academic Rector that PhD Samuel Yigzaw be appointed to the post of University Lecturer, information technology, from 1 May 2024 onwards or as agreed.

Motion The Faculty Council will address the proposal on the person to be appointed to the post.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 6	Selection memorandum; University Lecturer (Information Technology)
Appendix 7	Samuel Yigzaw's CV
Appendix 8	Samuel Yigzaw's teaching portfolio
Appendix 9	Samuel Yigzaw's list of publications

Record entry no 3339/03.01.00/2023

Prepared by Maarit Merimaa-Piirainen

§ 5

Proposal to the UEF Board on the student intake of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology in student admissions 2025–2028

According to section 14.2(10) of the Universities Act, the board of a public university is responsible for deciding on the number of students to be admitted to the university.

The schools/departments of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology have allocated the available study places in 2025–2028 as specified in the enclosed Appendix. The UEF Board will confirm the student intake (the maximum intake by faculty). The total student intake to be confirmed at faculty level will not be tied to study programmes, but the intake to each study programme will be confirmed when the admission criteria are approved or modified.

The Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology proposes to the UEF Board that it approves the student intake of the faculty to be a total of 1,100 study places in 2025 and a total of 1,300 study places a year in 2026–2029.

Motion

The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology proposes to the Board of the University that it approves a total of 1,100 study places for 2025 and a total of 1,300 study places a year for 2026–

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2029. More detailed student intake for each study programme will be confirmed annually when the admission criteria are approved or modified.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 10 Student intake of the Faculty of Science, Forestry
and Technology in 2025–2028

Record entry no 2316/03.00.00/2024

Prepared by Maarit Merimaa-Piirainen and Hanne Laukkanen

§ 6

Discontinuation of Physics education and Establishment of Master of Science (Technology) education in Photonics

The Department of Physics and Mathematics has proposed that the Faculty Council approves the discontinuation of physics education (excluding PSRS Erasmus Master degree education). No students have been admitted after 1 August 2023 to the programme to be discontinued, meaning that the transitional periods for the termination have been calculated, in accordance with the university's instructions, from the moment the most recent students started in the degree programmes.

The discontinuation applies to the following degree programmes:

- Bachelor of Science + Master of Arts, Physicist (3 years + 2 years)
- Master of Arts, Physicist (2 years)
- Photonics, Master of Science (2 years) (pursued degree: Master of Arts)

Transitional provision

Students whose right to study for a Bachelor of Science + Master of Arts, Physicist, degree entered into force on or before 1 August 2022 may complete the Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees until 31 July 2029.

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Students whose right to study in the aforementioned Master's degree programmes entered into force on or before 1 August 2022 may complete the Master of Arts degrees until 31 July 2026.

The right to study in the discontinued degree programmes ends at the end of the transitional period.

The Department of Physics and Mathematics trains Bachelors of Science (Technology) and Masters of Science (Technology). Since 1 August 2023, the department has provided training in the following degree programmes in the field of technology:

- Bachelor of Science (Technology) + Master on Science (Technology), Photonics (3 years + 2 years)
- Master on Science (Technology), Photonics (2 years)
- Photonics, Master of Science (Technology) (2 years) (pursued degree: Master of Science (Technology))

The Faculty Council has confirmed the curricula and degree requirements for the above degree programmes in technology. According to section 6 of the Education Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will decide, within the scope of the faculty's educational responsibility, on the launch of a new major subject and shutting down of an existing one.

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Students who study Physics as a major or minor subject and whose right to study entered into force on or before 1 August 2022 may replace the courses removed from the curricula in accordance with the Appendices.

Motion

1. The Faculty Council will state that physics education was discontinued on 1 August 2023 (excluding PSRS Erasmus Master's degree education).
2. The Faculty Council approves the transitional provisions for basic and intermediate studies in physics.
3. The Faculty Council confirms the degree programmes for the Master's degree in Photonics.

Decision

1. As proposed.
2. As proposed.
3. As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 11	Major studies in Physics
Appendix 12	Basic studies in Physics

Record entry no 2316/03.00.00/2024

Prepared by Maarit Merimaa-Piirainen and Seija Hämäläinen

§ 7

Amendments to the Master's Programme in Biology and Environmental Sciences, taught in English, on the Kuopio campus

The Department of Environmental and Biological Sciences has proposed that the Faculty Council approve the name change of the Master's degree Programme, taught in English.

Name change

The Department of Environmental and Biological Sciences has organised the Master's Degree Programme in Biology of Environmental Change (BEC), taught in English, in two subjects and on two campuses as follows:

- Master's Degree Programme in Biology of Environmental Change (BEC), Biology (Joensuu campus)
- Master's Degree Programme in Biology of Environmental Change (BEC), Environmental Science (Kuopio campus)

The Department of Environmental and Biological Sciences has decided that as of 1 August 2024, the above BEC Master's degree programme in Environmental Sciences, organised on the Kuopio campus, will become an independent Master's degree programme, taught in English:

- Master's Degree Programme in Environmental and Ecosystem Ecology (EEE)

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This transformation of the BEC Master's Programme in Environmental Sciences into a separate programme does not affect the degree structure or the scope of the degree. The first students to begin in the EEE programme, which will start on 1 August 2024, will be selected in the first joint admissions in spring 2024.

The Master's Degree Programme in Biology of Environmental Change (BEC), Biology, will continue to be implemented on the Joensuu campus. The degree programme will include the name of the Master's degree Programme for which the student applied and in which they were granted the right to study.

Transitional provision

Students whose right to study in the Master's Degree Programme in Biology of Environmental Change (BEC), Environmental Science (Kuopio campus) entered into force on or before 1 August 2023 may complete a Master of Arts degree in the said BEC, Environmental Science programme until 31 July 2027. Students will be notified of the change in the name of the programme and related practical matters. The transitional provision only applies to students who have been granted the right to study in the BEC, Environmental Science programme. After the above transitional period, students will only graduate from the EEE Master's degree Programme in Environmental Science.

Currently valid Master's degree programmes

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The Department of Environmental and Biological Sciences requests that the Faculty Council confirm the valid Master's degree programmes of the Department of Environmental and Biological Sciences, taught in English:

- Master's Degree Programme in Biology of Environmental Change (BEC), Biology (Joensuu campus)
- Master's Degree Programme in Environmental and Ecosystem Ecology (EEE), Environmental Science (Kuopio campus)
- Master's Degree Programme in Biology of Environmental Change (BEC), Environmental Science (Kuopio campus), observing the above transitional provision
- Master's Degree Programme in Environmental Health and Technology (ENHET), Environmental Science (Kuopio campus)

Motion

1. The Council confirms that as of 1 August 2024, the BEC Master's degree programme in Environmental Sciences, organised on the Kuopio campus, will become an independent Master's degree programme, taught in English.
2. The Faculty Council approves the transitional provisions of the Master's Degree Programme in Biology of Environmental Change (BEC) for the Kuopio campus.
3. The Faculty Council verifies the Master's degree programmes of the Department of Environmental and Biological Sciences, taught in English.

Decision

1. As proposed.



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2. As proposed.

3. As proposed.

Record entry no 86/03.04.09/2024

Prepared by Kaisa Laitinen

§ 8

Grading MSc Mzomwe Yahya Mazana's doctoral dissertation in the field of information technology

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 Mzomwe Yahya Mazana's doctoral dissertation and study [Mathematics Teaching and Learning Activity Model for Blended Instructions in Tanzanian Higher Education](#) was examined publicly on 27 March 2024. The opponent, Professor David Holgate (Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, University of Western Cape, South Africa) 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 Mzomwe Yahya Mazana's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 13 Statement of opponent David Holgate

Record entry no 86/03.04.09/2024

Prepared by Kaisa Laitinen

§ 9

Grading MSc Mir Md Abdus Salami'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 Mir Md Abdus Salami's doctoral dissertation and study [Evaluation of survival, growth, and phytoremediation potential of Populus and Salix seedlings grown in polluted soils](#) was examined publicly on 21 March 2024. Opponent, Research Professor Hannu Ilvesniemi (Natural Resources Institute Finland), is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Agriculture and Forestry 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 Mir Md Abdus Salami's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 14 Statement by opponent Hannu Ilvesniemi

Record entry no 86/03.04.09/2024

Prepared by Kaisa Laitinen

§ 10

Grading MSc Sanni Suominen's doctoral dissertation in the field of Mathematics

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 Sanni Suominen's doctoral dissertation and study [Development of a Compulsory Mathematics Online Course Capable of Accommodating the Individual Needs of Students in Finnish Vocational Upper Secondary Education](#) was examined publicly on 12 April 2024. The opponent, Professor Timo Tossavainen (Department of Health, Education and Technology, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden), 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 Sanni Suominen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

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Appendix 15 Statement by the opponent Timo Tossavainen

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Record entry no 63/00.03.03/2024

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

§ 11

Faculty Council meetings in the autumn semester 2024

The meetings of the autumn semester 2024 are proposed as follows:

Wed 28 August at 13.00–

Tue 24 September at 13.00–

Tue 22 October at 13.00–

Wed 20 November at 13.00–

Wed 18 December 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 9
April 2024 (Appendix)

The doctoral dissertation overview of the faculty dated 10 April 2024;
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)

Topical faculty matters.

Motion Marked for information.

Decision As proposed.

Appendices

Appendix 15 Degree Statistics 9 April 2024

Appendix 16 Doctoral dissertation overview 10 April 2024



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Closing of the meeting

The chair closed the meeting at 13.39.

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§ 14

Translation of the agenda/minutes

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