

## Agenda

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences  
Meeting No 9/2025  
Meeting date 23 October 2025

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**Date and time** 23 October 2025 at 14:00 -

**Place** ME201 + Teams

| Participants             | Role                      | Additional information |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Members                  |                           |                        |
| Forsberg Markus          | Dean, Chair               |                        |
| Levonen-Harju Anna-Liisa | 1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair |                        |
| Kauppinen Anu            | Professor, member         |                        |
| Rautio Jarkko            | Professor, deputy member  |                        |
| Malm Tarja               | Professor, member         |                        |
| Saaranen Terhi           | Professor, deputy member  |                        |
| Jääskeläinen Jarmo       | Professor, member         |                        |
| Keski-Nisula Leea        | Professor, deputy member  |                        |
| Tuomainen Tomi-Pekka     | Professor, member         |                        |
| Pussinen Pirkko          | Professor, deputy member  |                        |
| Heinäniemi Merja         | Professor, member         |                        |
| Tohka Jussi              | Professor, deputy member  |                        |
| Jalkanen Aaro            | Staff, member             |                        |
| Huttunen Kristiina       | Staff, deputy member      |                        |
| Kotikumpu Kari           | Staff, member             |                        |
| Parviainen Anndra        | Staff, deputy member      |                        |

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| Heikkilä Reeta            | Staff, member                                            |
| Sutinen Tiina             | Staff, deputy member                                     |
| Lahtela-Kakkonen Maija    | Staff, member                                            |
| Savinainen Juha           | Staff, deputy member                                     |
| Toroi Riitta-Liisa        | Staff, member                                            |
| Kanninen Katja            | Staff, deputy member                                     |
| Suurnäkki-Piispa Mira     | Student, member                                          |
| Riikkilä Onni             | Student, deputy member                                   |
| Omale Inikpi              | Student, member                                          |
| To be named later         | Student, deputy member                                   |
| Tariq Amina               | Student, member                                          |
| To be named later         | Student, deputy member                                   |
| Gunnar Janina             | Student, member                                          |
| Ikonen Ella               | Student, deputy member                                   |
| Zacheus Teemu             | Student, member                                          |
| Lehtonen Anne             | Student, deputy member                                   |
| Ollikainen-Richards Hanna | Executive Head of Administration, secretary,<br>preparer |

### Other preparers

|                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Järvelin-Pasanen Susanna | Head of Student Services    |
| Koistinen Annika         | Academic Affairs Specialist |



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### Items to be discussed at the meeting

| Number | Heading                                                                                                                                                     | Page |
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| 2      | Legitimacy and presence of a quorum                                                                                                                         | 7    |
| 3      | Description of the post of Professor, Neurosurgery, in order to invite MD Timo Koivisto to the post: Hearing of the Faculty Council                         | 8    |
| 4      | Description of the post of Professor/Associate Professor of Biopharmacy (Tenure Track): Hearing of the Faculty Council                                      | 11   |
| 5      | Description of the post of Professor/Associate Professor of Surgery (Tenure Track): Hearing of the Faculty Council                                          | 13   |
| 6      | The scope and specifications of the post of University Lecturer in Molecular Biology that will become vacant at the Faculty: Hearing of the Faculty Council | 15   |
| 7      | Granting the title of docent in Public and Global Health to PhD Frank Adusei-Mensah                                                                         | 17   |
| 8      | Granting the title of docent in Health Data Science to PhD Anssi Lipponen                                                                                   | 20   |
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| 10     | Grading MSc Johnson Lok's doctoral dissertation                                                                                                             | 25   |
| 11     | Grading Lic.Med. Vesa Periviita's doctoral dissertation                                                                                                     | 27   |
| 12     | For information                                                                                                                                             | 29   |

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| 13 | Closing of the meeting            | 30 |
| 14 | Translation of the agenda/minutes | 31 |



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**1**

### **Opening of the meeting**

The chair will open the meeting.

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## **2**

### **Legitimacy and presence of a quorum**

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

The meeting notice was sent on 16 October 2025.

According to the UEF University Regulations, multi-member administrative bodies 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 body 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 as a hybrid meeting (ME201 + TEAMS).

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

### **Decision**

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Record entry 1221/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

### 3

#### **Description of the post of Professor, Neurosurgery, in order to invite MD Timo Koivisto to the post: Hearing of the Faculty Council**

The School of Medicine, the Institute of Clinical Medicine, of the University of Eastern Finland has proposed in its strategic human resources plan that MD, docent, medical specialist Timo Koivisto be invited to a part-time (30%) post of Professor, Neurosurgery, for a fixed term of four years. The post is filled for a fixed term due to it being a temporary post.

The proposed grounds for the invitation procedure are:

Timo Koivisto received a doctoral degree in Medicine in 2002 from the University of Eastern Finland. He was awarded the title of docent in Neurosurgery in 2008 by the University of Kuopio. In addition, he completed the UEF EMBA degree at the University of Eastern Finland in 2016.

Timo Koivisto currently works as Chief Physician in the Wellbeing Services County of North Savo. His former roles include xx. He has also acted as a visiting professor at the Macquarie University in Australia (2006-2007).

Timo Koivisto's list of publications includes 112 peer-reviewed international scientific publications. He has supervised 7 doctoral

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dissertations and is currently supervising two more. He has also acted several times as a preliminary examiner and opponent of doctoral dissertations. Timo Koivisto has acquired almost EUR 3.0 million of research funding as the leading principal investigator or a member of a research team.

On the basis of the above, Timo Koivisto meets the requirements of the invitation procedure for the part-time (30%) post of Professor, Neurosurgery.

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

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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.

The description of the post of Professor, Neurosurgery, is enclosed with this agenda item as an annex. The description of the post includes the scope and specifications of the post required by the UEF University Regulations. The description of the post requires that the person to be invited to the said post of Professor has practical familiarity with the field of the post.

**Motion** The Faculty Council will discuss the proposed scope and specifications of the post and the Dean's proposal on the person to be invited to it.

## Decision

### Annexes

- 1 Description of the post, Neurosurgery
- 2 CV Koivisto Timo
- 3 List of publications Koivisto Timo
- 4 Consent to use the invitation procedure, Neurosurgery

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Record entry 1220/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## 4

### **Description of the post of Professor/Associate Professor of Biopharmacy (Tenure Track): 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.

In its strategic human resources plan, the School of Pharmacy of the University of Eastern Finland proposes that the post of Professor/Associate Professor of Biopharmacy be filled at the School.

The post will be hosted by the Faculty of Health Sciences, the School of Pharmacy.

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, a person to be appointed as Professor shall be scientifically or artistically qualified, have good teaching skills and, if important for attending to the duties, have practical familiarity with the field of the post.

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Based on the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, a person to be appointed as an associate professor in the tenure track shall hold a suitable doctoral degree and have good teaching skills.

Furthermore, the person shall have the prerequisites to fulfil the qualification requirements of a professor by the end of the tenure track term.

The post of Professor will be filled via an open call for applications as of 1 August 2026 until further notice, and the post of Associate Professor for a four-year term as of 1 August 2026. The post of Associate Professor is filled for a fixed term due to it being a Tenure Track position.

The criteria, goals and results to be achieved during the term in order to proceed to the next level of the Tenure Track (Professor) will be agreed upon in detail with the person appointed to the Associate Professor position when the contract of employment is signed.

The description of the post of Professor/Associate Professor of Biopharmacy (Tenure Track) (Annex) includes the scope and specifications of the post as required by the UEF University Regulations.

**Motion**      The Faculty Council will discuss the description of the post.

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5 Description of the post, Biopharmacy

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Record entry 1247/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## 5

### **Description of the post of Professor/Associate Professor of Surgery (Tenure Track): 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.

In their strategic human resources plan, the School of Medicine and the Institute of Clinical Medicine of the University of Eastern Finland propose that the post of a Professor/Associate Professor of Surgery (Assistant or Associate Professor) be filled at the institute.

The post will be hosted by the Faculty of Health Sciences, the School of Medicine, the Institute of Clinical Medicine.

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, a person to be appointed as Professor shall be scientifically or artistically qualified, have good teaching skills and, if important for attending to the duties, have practical familiarity with the field of the post.

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A person to be appointed as an assistant or associate professor in the tenure track in accordance with the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland shall hold a suitable doctoral degree and have good teaching skills. Furthermore, the person shall have the prerequisites to fulfil the qualification requirements of a professor by the end of the tenure track term.

The post of a Professor will be filled until further notice starting on 1 January 2026 at the earliest. In the case of an Associate Professor, the post will be filled for a four-year term starting on 1 January 2026 at the earliest. The post is filled for a fixed term due to it being a Tenure Track position.

The criteria, objectives and results to be achieved during the term in order to proceed to the next level of the Tenure Track will be agreed in detail with the appointee to the Associate Professor position when signing the contract of employment.

The description of the post of Professor/Associate Professor (Tenure Track) (Annex) includes the scope and specifications of the post as required by the UEF University Regulations.

**Motion**      The Faculty Council will discuss the description of the post.

**Decision**

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6 Description of the post\_surgery

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Record entry 1222/01.01.03/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## 6

### **The scope and specifications of the post of University Lecturer in Molecular Biology that will become vacant at the Faculty: Hearing of the Faculty Council**

In accordance with the strategic human resources plan of the School of Medicine, Institute of Health and Clinical Nutrition, preparations are made to open a post of University Lecturer. The post will be filled from 1 January 2026 onwards until further notice.

The scope of the post is as follows:

University Lecturer, Molecular Biology:

The duties of the University Lecturer in Molecular Biology include the planning and teaching of courses, in particular in the fields of molecular and microbiology, biosecurity and the regulation of metabolism; the supervision of Bachelor's and Master's theses; and the coordination of Bachelor's theses in the academic subject of Nutrition.

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.



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**Motion**      The Faculty Council will discuss the scope and specifications of the post of University Lecturer, Molecular Biology, that will become vacant at the faculty.

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Record entry 1225/01.08.00/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## 7

### **Granting the title of docent in Public and Global Health to PhD Frank Adusei-Mensah**

PhD Frank Adusei-Mensah has proposed that he be awarded the title of docent in the field of Public and Global Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Eastern Finland. The applicant's CV and list of publications are enclosed with the agenda item as Annexes.

The Docent Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences stated at its meeting that the docentship is purposeful from the perspective of teaching and research activities. The Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences has invited Docent Carina Tikkanen-Kaukanen (University of Helsinki) and docent Yvonne Holm (University of Helsinki) as experts.

Docent Tikkanen-Kaukanen submitted her statement on 15 October 2025 and Docent Holm on 3 October 2025. Both experts consider the applicant to be scientifically qualified for the docentship they are applying for and are in favour of awarding the title of docent. The statements of the experts are enclosed with this agenda item as Annexes.

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

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independent research or artistic work demonstrated through publications or in some other manner, and good teaching skills.

The Docent Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences stated, when it processed the application, that the applicant meets the criteria of the Faculty of Health Sciences as regards 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.

The applicant meets the qualification requirements of a docent specified in section 89 of the Universities Act and the criteria set out in the docentship guidelines of the Faculty of Health Sciences for the title of docent.

## Motion

The Faculty Council states that the applicant meets the qualification requirements specified in section 89 of the Universities Act and the criteria set out in the docentship guidelines of the Faculty of Health Sciences for the title of docent and decides to grant the title of docent in Public and Global Health to PhD Frank Adusei-Mensah.

## Decision

### Annexes

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 7 | Expert statement Adusei Mensah_Holm |
| 8 | CV Adusei-Mensah Frank              |

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- 9 List of publications Adusei-Mensah Frank
- 10 Statement of the academic subject on the title of docent,  
public and global health
- 11 Expert statement Adusei-Mensah\_Tikkanen-Kaukanen

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Record entry 1224/01.08.00/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## **8**

### **Granting the title of docent in Health Data Science to PhD Anssi Lipponen**

PhD Anssi Lipponen has proposed that he be awarded the title of docent in the field of Health Data Science at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Eastern Finland. The applicant's CV and list of publications are enclosed with the agenda item as Annexes.

The Docent Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences stated at its meeting that the docentship is purposeful from the perspective of teaching and research activities. The Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences has invited Professor Reija Autio (University of Tampere) and Professor Sini Junttila (University of Turku) as experts.

Professor Autio submitted her statement on 5 September 2025 and Professor Junttila on 17 September 2025. Both experts consider the applicant to be scientifically qualified for the docentship they are applying for and are in favour of awarding the title of docent. The statements of the experts are enclosed with this agenda item as Annexes.

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

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independent research or artistic work demonstrated through publications or some other manner, and good teaching skills.

The Docent Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences stated, when it processed the application, that the applicant meets the criteria of the Faculty of Health Sciences as regards 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.

The applicant meets the qualification requirements of a docent specified in section 89 of the Universities Act and the criteria set out in the docentship guidelines of the Faculty of Health Sciences for the title of docent.

## Motion

The Faculty Council states that the applicant meets the qualification requirements specified in section 89 of the University Act and the criteria set out in the docentship guidelines of the Faculty of Health Sciences for the title of docent and decides to grant the title of docent in Health Data Science to PhD Anssi Lipponen.

## Decision

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- 13 List of publications Lipponen Anssi
- 14 Statement\_Anssi Lipponen\_Autio
- 15 Statement\_Anssi Lipponen\_Junttila
- 16 Statement of the academic subject, title of docent in Health  
Data Science

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Record entry 1005/01.08.00/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## **9**

### **Granting the title of docent in Nutrition, especially Food Processing, to PhD Saara Vanhatalo**

PhD Saara Vanhatalo has proposed that she be awarded the title of docent in the field of Nutrition, especially Food Processing, at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Eastern Finland. The applicant's CV and list of publications are enclosed with the agenda item as Annexes.

The Docent Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences stated at its meeting that the docentship is purposeful from the perspective of teaching and research activities. The Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences has invited Professor Kaisa Linderborg (University of Turku) and Professor Anne-Maria Pajari (University of Helsinki) as experts.

Professor Linderborg submitted her statement on 20 August 2025 and Professor Pajari on 6 October 2025. Both experts consider the applicant to be scientifically qualified for the docentship they are applying for and are in favour of awarding the title of docent. The statements of the experts are enclosed with this agenda item as Annexes.

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

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has comprehensive knowledge of his or her own field, a capacity for independent research or artistic work demonstrated through publications or some other manner, and good teaching skills.

The Docent Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences stated, when it processed the application, that the applicant meets the criteria of the Faculty of Health Sciences as regards 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.

The applicant meets the qualification requirements of a docent specified in section 89 of the Universities Act and the criteria set out in the docentship guidelines of the Faculty of Health Sciences for the title of docent.

**Motion** The Faculty Council states that the applicant meets the qualification requirements specified in section 89 of the Universities Act and the criteria set out in the docentship guidelines of the Faculty of Health Sciences for the title of docent and decides to grant the title of docent in Nutrition, especially Food Processing, to PhD Saara Vanhatalo.

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- |    |                                                                 |
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| 17 | CV Vanhatalo Saara                                              |
| 18 | Statement Vanhatalo Saara_Linderborg                            |
| 19 | Statement Vanhatalo Saara_Pajari                                |
| 20 | List of publications Vanhatalo Saara                            |
| 21 | Statement of the academic subject, title of docent in Nutrition |

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Record entry 15/03.04.09/2025

Prepared by

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### Grading MSc Johnson Lok's doctoral dissertation

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland (1 January 2024), the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 14 of the standing rules of the Faculty of Health Sciences on degrees and studies, doctoral dissertations are graded on the scale fail – pass – pass with distinction. The Faculty Council will decide on the grade of the dissertation based on the grade proposal of the opponent.

MSc Johnson Lok's doctoral dissertation and study "[Host-microbiota interactions in MASLD: from disease progression to microbiome-based therapeutics – Gut-liver axis and engineered microbiome-based hormonal therapeutics in a male C57BL/6J mouse model of diet-induced MASLD](#)" was examined publicly on 1 September 2025. The opponent Professor Alice H. Lichtenstein (Tufts University, US) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Philosophy and proposes the grade Pass with distinction.

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

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examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the statements. The opponent's statement is enclosed with the item as an annex.

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 Johnson Lok's doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

### Decision

### Annexes

|    |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 22 | Opponent_Lichtenstein_statement_Lok |
|----|-------------------------------------|

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Record entry 15/03.04.09/2025

Prepared by

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### **Grading Lic.Med. Vesa Periviita's doctoral dissertation**

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland (1 January 2024), the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 14 of the standing rules of the Faculty of Health Sciences on degrees and studies, doctoral dissertations are graded on the scale fail – pass – pass with distinction. The Faculty Council will decide on the grade of the dissertation based on the grade proposal of the opponent.

Lic.Med. Vesa Periviita's doctoral dissertation and study "[Skeletal Muscle Channelopathies with Myalgia](#)", was examined publicly on 12 September 2025. The opponent, Professor Stephen C. Cannon (University of California, Los Angeles, US) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Medicine 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 statements. The opponent's statement is enclosed with the item as an annex.

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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 Lic.Med. Vesa Periviita's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision****Annexes**

23          Opponent\_Cannon\_statement\_Periviita

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**For information**

Change to the Dean's proposal to the Rector of the University of Eastern Finland, discussed by the Faculty Council on 12 June 2025, on the appointment of MD Tuomas Rauramaa to the post of Professor, Neuropathology, from 1 January 2026 onwards until further notice.

Due to the arrangements of duties within the unit, MD Tuomas Rauramaa started in the post on 1 October 2025.

**Motion**          Marked for information.

**Decision**



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### **Closing of the meeting**

The chair will close the meeting.



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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.