

## Minutes

Faculty Council of the Philosophical Faculty  
Meeting No 7/2025  
Meeting date 28 August 2025

1 (17)

**Date and time** 28 August 2025, 10:15 – 10:53

**Place** Teams

Participants	Role	Present for items
Members		
Pietarinen Janne	Dean, Chair	1-7
Manninen Jyri	Professor, member	
Honkalampi Kirsi	Professor, deputy member	
Kurki Teo	Professor, member	
Riionheimo Helka	Professor, deputy member	
Juvonen Antti	Professor, member	
Kantelinen Ritva	Professor, deputy member	1-7
Kallinen Timo	Professor, member	1-7
Ubani Martin	Professor, deputy member	
Laasonen Marja	Professor, member	
Virtanen Marianna	Professor, deputy member	1-7
Venäläinen Juhana	Other staff, member	1-5
Suokas Juho	Other staff, deputy member	
Kasanen Kati	Other staff, member	1-7
Tamminen Merja	Other staff, deputy member	1-2,4-7
Sormunen Kari	Other staff, member	1-7
Kröger Tarja	Other staff, deputy member	

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Mikkola Sini	Other staff, member	1-7
Hurskainen Heta	Other staff, deputy member	
Korkki Jyrki	Other staff, member	1-2,4-7
Räty-Záborszky Sinikka	Other staff, deputy member	
Uutela Tuuli	Student, member	1-2,4-7
Baljashkin Janina	Student, deputy member	
Rissanen Tanja	Student, member	
Vidanagamage Yoshitha	Student, deputy member	1-2,4-7
Saramäki Noora	Student, member	
Palkovuori Teemu	Student, deputy member	1-2,4-7
Nuutinen Niina-Hannele	Student, member	1-2,4-7
To be named later	Student, deputy member	
Backlund Lidia	Student, member	
To be named later	Student, deputy member	
Nevalainen Henni	Executive Head of Administration, secretary, preparer	1-7
Other preparers		
Anttonen Salli	Academic Affairs Specialist	1-4
Kouki Satu	Head of Academic Affairs	1-6
Myllys Riikka	Academic Affairs Specialist	1-6

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### Items discussed at the meeting

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### § 1

#### **Opening of the meeting**

The chair opened the meeting at 10:15.

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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 21 August 2025.

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 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 via Teams.

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

**Decision**     As proposed.

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Record entry 152/03.04.09/2025

Prepared by Salli Anttonen

§ 3

### **Grading MEd Minna Ikävalko's doctoral dissertation in the field of Special Education**

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland (1 August 2018), the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to the instructions issued separately by the Philosophical Faculty (24 May 2023), doctoral dissertations are graded on the scale fail – pass – pass with distinction.

MEd Minna Ikävalko's doctoral dissertation and study "Development of Self-Regulatory Efficacy Sources During a School Year: The Role of Gender, Support for Learning, Individual Strengths and Associations with Self-Regulatory Efficacy" was examined publicly on 14 June 2025. The opponent Professor Mikko Aro (University of Jyväskylä) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Education 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 statement. The statements of the opponent and the custos are enclosed with this agenda item as annexes.

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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.

A link to the dissertation: <https://erepo.uef.fi/items/8b35e962-625b-4fe7-b78a-e4d548100ba7>

**Motion** Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MEd Minna Ikävalko's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision** As proposed.

## Annexes

- 1 Statements on the dissertation (opponent Professor Mikko Aro, custos Professor Erkki Sointu, doctoral candidate MEd Minna Ikävalko)

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Record entry No 1026/03.00.00/2025

Prepared by Satu Kouki

§ 4

### **Launch of a major subject of Theology of Well-being**

According to section 6 of the Education Regulations, Faculty Council shall decide, within the scope of the faculty's educational responsibility, on the establishment and discontinuation of major subjects.

The School of Theology proposes that a new major subject, Theology of Well-being, be established. The Theology of Well-being would be the major subject of the Faith, Crises, and Existential Wellbeing Master's Programme, taught in English, which starts on 1 August 2026. It would also be possible to select Theology of Well-being as the major subject of a doctorate degree as from 1 September 2025 if the doctoral research is conducted in the field of Theology of Well-being.

A subject named "Theology of Wellbeing and Professional Skills" has been established in the curriculum 2025–2028 for Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes taught in Finnish, which does not have the status of a major subject and has mainly included courses included in applied studies and preparing the students for working life. It is now proposed that this subject be changed to Theology of Well-being and made the main subject of an international Master's Programme and doctoral degrees. At this point, it would not become the main subject of Bachelor's and Master's degree education taught in Finnish. Theology of Well-being is not a traditional theology subject, either nationally or globally.



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Theology of Well-being and the International Master's Programme will respond to the growing societal and academic need to understand and address existential well-being in a multidisciplinary and multicultural manner. Teaching relating to the topic is already being given in many subjects at the School of Theology, and these courses would also be used in the new international Master's programme. The programme would, at least initially, include only a few courses defined under the subject of Theology of Well-being, and the advanced studies in Theology of Well-being would mainly consist of courses included in other subjects of Theology.

The establishment of the major subject does not entail any additional costs. The Master's programme taught in English is designed so that it builds on existing teaching and can be implemented by using the existing teaching resources.

**Motion** I propose that the Faculty Council decides to establish the main subject of Theology of Well-being and to change the name of the already established Theology of Well-being and Professional Skills subject to Theology of Well-being.

**Decision** As proposed.

Record entry 2046/03.01.00/2024

Prepared by Riikka Myllys

§ 5

**Deciding on the criteria for student admissions to the Philosophical Faculty for 2026, degree programmes taught in English**

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council shall make decisions concerning curricula, degree requirements and student admission criteria. The approval of the admission criteria for the degree programmes taught in English, specified in the enclosed annex, for 2026 will be discussed.

The admission criteria have been prepared by the departments and academic subjects. The School of Humanities has prepared admission criteria for two Master's degree programmes, the School of Educational Sciences and Psychology for one Bachelor's degree programme, the School of Applied Educational Science and Teacher Education for two Master's degree programmes and the School of Theology for one Master's degree programme. The School of Theology's Master's degree programme is a new programme. The annexes include a general description of the programme, a preliminary curriculum and a needs analysis of the new education.

The pedagogical leaders of the schools present to the Faculty Council that it approves the admission criteria for the following programmes:

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- Bachelor's degree programme in Lifelong Learning and Sustainable Development (School of Educational Sciences and Psychology)
- Master's degree Programme in Early Language Education for Intercultural Communication (School of Applied Educational Science and Teacher Education)
- Master's degree programme in English Language and Culture (School of Humanities)
- Master's degree programme in Faith, Crises, and Existential Wellbeing (School of Theology)
- Master's degree programme in Linguistic Data Sciences (School of Humanities)
- Master's degree programme in Pedagogy and Teaching for Sustainability (School of Applied Educational Science and Teacher Education)

**Motion** The Faculty Council will approve the student admission criteria for the degree programmes taught in English for 2026 as set out in the annex.

**Decision** As proposed.

## Annexes

- 2 Admission criteria for 2026: degree programmes taught in English
- 3 Description of the programme: Master's degree programme in Faith, Crises, and Existential Wellbeing
- 4 Curriculum: Master's degree programme in Faith, Crises, and Existential Wellbeing

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- 5 Needs analysis: Master's degree programme in Faith Crises and Existential Wellbeing

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Record entry 1022/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Henni Nevalainen

§ 6

### **Description of the post of Professor, Cultural Studies, and the Dean's proposal to invite Associate Professor Juhana Venäläinen to the post: Hearing of the Faculty Council**

PhD Juhana Venäläinen has been appointed to the tenure track post of Associate Professor, Cultural Studies, for the period 1 September 2022 – 31 August 2026. The position will be hosted by the faculty's School of Humanities.

The members of the Appointments Committee of the post, as referred to in section 30 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, are: Dean Janne Pietarinen (Chair), Professor Esa Penttilä, Professor Ilkka Huhta, Professor Jopi Nyman, Professor Tuija Saresma, Executive Head of Administration Henni Nevalainen and HR Specialist Nina Miinalainen, secretary.

Based on the submitted documents, the Appointments Committee came to the conclusion that the prerequisites to initiate the invitation procedure are met. The Appointments Committee supported the initiation of an evaluation process at its meeting of 19 August 2025.

The post of is intended to be filled by invitation as from 1 January 2026 or as agreed until further notice.

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The description of the post and Venäläinen's CV, list of publications and teaching portfolio are enclosed with this agenda item.

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.

The description of the post includes the scope and specifications of the post, as required by the UEF 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.

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The description of the post is enclosed with this agenda item as an annex.

The description of the post has been reviewed with the person to be invited to it.

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

**Decision** As proposed.

### Annexes

- 6 Description of the post: Professor, Cultural Studies
- 7 Curriculum vitae, Juhana Venäläinen: Professor, Cultural Studies
- 8 List of publications, Juhana Venäläinen: Professor, Cultural Studies
- 9 Portfolio of teaching merits, Juhana Venäläinen: Professor, Cultural Studies

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#### **Closing of the meeting**

The chair closed the meeting at 10:53.



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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.

#### Annexes

10	Translation of the agenda, 18 August 2025
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