

## Agenda

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences  
Meeting No 11/2025  
Meeting date 18 December 2025

1 (54)

**Date and time** 18 December 2025 at 14:00 -

## Place

| Participants             | Role                      | Additional information |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Members                  |                           |                        |
| Forsberg Markus          | Dean, Chair               | 1-25                   |
| Levonen-Harju Anna-Liisa | 1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair |                        |
| Kauppinen Anu            | Professor, member         | 1-25                   |
| 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         | 1-25                   |
| Pussinen Pirkko          | Professor, deputy member  |                        |
| Heinäniemi Merja         | Professor, member         | 1-25                   |
| Tohka Jussi              | Professor, deputy member  |                        |
| Jalkanen Aaro            | Staff, member             | 1-25                   |
| Huttunen Kristiina       | Staff, deputy member      |                        |
| Kotikumpu Kari           | Staff, member             | 1-25                   |
| Parviainen Anndra        | Staff, deputy member      |                        |

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| Heikkilä Reeta            | Staff, member                                            | 1-25 |
| Sutinen Tiina             | Staff, deputy member                                     | 1-25 |
| Lahtela-Kakkonen Maija    | Staff, member                                            | 1-7  |
| Savinainen Juha           | Staff, deputy member                                     |      |
| Toroi Riitta-Liisa        | Staff, member                                            | 1-25 |
| Kanninen Katja            | Staff, deputy member                                     |      |
| Suurnäkki-Piispa Mira     | Student, member                                          | 1-25 |
| 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                                          |      |
| Kalenius Nea              | Student, deputy member                                   | 1-25 |
| Ollikainen-Richards Hanna | Executive Head of Administration, secretary,<br>preparer | 1-25 |
| Other preparers           |                                                          |      |
| Järvelin-Pasanen Susanna  | Head of Student Services                                 | 1-25 |
| Koistinen Annika          | Academic Affairs Specialist                              | 1-25 |



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### **1**

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

The chair opened the meeting at 14:20.

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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 11 December 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 (Teams + SN200).

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

**Decision**      As proposed



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Record entry 392/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

### **3**

#### **The Dean's proposal to the Rector of the University of Eastern Finland on the appointment of PhD Kirsi Ketola to the post of Professor, Medical Biochemistry, until further notice: Hearing of the Faculty Council**

By his decision, the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences approved the description of the post of Associate Professor/Professor of Medical Biochemistry.

By the deadline, seven applicants submitted their applications to the vacant part-time (30%) post of Professor/Associate Professor: Markku Hakala, Mohieddin Jafari, Piia Karisola, Kirsi Ketola, Mikko Kuokkanen, Leena Latonen and Ville Paakinaho.

In accordance with the Universities Act, statements must be requested before the appointment on the qualification and merits of the applicants or the person to be invited to the post from a minimum of two experts when a person is being recruited for an employment relationship that will be effective until further notice or for a fixed period of at least two years. Sections 27–29 of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003) on disqualification shall be applied to the experts.

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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. By decision of 11 March 2025 of the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, the person to be appointed to the post is not required to have practical familiarity with the field of the post.

Expert statements on the eligibility and merits of the person applying for the post have been requested from the following persons: Professor Maria Masucci (Karolinska Institutet), Aristidis Moustakas (Uppsala University) and Professor Richard Moriggl (University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna).

Based on the application documents and the expert statements, the Appointments Committee proposes that the vacancy be filled at Professor level and that PhD Kirsi Ketola be appointed to it from 1 January 2026 onwards until further notice. The proposal of the Appointments Committee and the application documents are enclosed with this agenda item as appendices.

According to section 10(9) of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Dean shall make a proposal to the Rector on the person to be appointed to the post after hearing the Faculty Council.

Kirsi Ketola is not required to give a trial lecture.

## Motion

The Faculty Council will discuss the proposed appointment.



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### **Decision**

The faculty council discussed the appointment proposal and recommends its return for preparation due to an error identified in the selection committee's memorandum.

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Record entry 1470/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## **4**

### **Description of the post of Professor, Surgery, in particular Orthopaedics and Traumatology, and the Dean's proposal to invite Professor Joonas Sirola 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 Joonas Sirola be invited to the post of Professor, Surgery, in particular Orthopaedics and Traumatology, until further notice as from 1 January 2027 (or as agreed).

The proposed grounds for the invitation procedure are:

Joonas Sirola received a licentiate degree in medicine and a doctoral degree in medicine in 2004 from the University of Kuopio. He received a specialist degree in orthopaedics and traumatology in 2010 and was awarded the title of docent in orthopaedics and traumatology in 2013 at the University of Eastern Finland. He completed qualifications in medical training in 2023.

Joonas Sirola currently works in the Institute of Clinical Medicine of the University of Eastern Finland's School of Medicine as a part-time professor of Orthopaedics and traumatology, Head of the Institute, and Chief

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Physician in the Wellbeing Services County of North Savo. His previous roles include e.g., the posts of Associate Professor, Research Director and Clinical Lecturer at the University of Eastern Finland.

Joonas Sirola's list of publications contains 82 international peer-reviewed scientific publications. He has supervised three and is currently supervising ten doctoral dissertations. Sirola has also acted several times as a preliminary examiner and opponent of doctoral dissertations. Joonas Sirola has acquired, either alone or as a member of a consortium, almost EUR 0.3 million of research funding.

On the basis of the above, Docent Professor Joonas Sirola fulfils the requirements of the invitation procedure to the post of Professor, Surgery, in particular Orthopaedics and Traumatology.

Joonas Sirola's CV and a list of publications are enclosed with this 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 the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, a person to be appointed to a permanent professorship or to a

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professorship of over a two-year term shall be scientifically or artistically qualified, have good teaching skills and, if important for attending to the duties, practical familiarity with the field of the post.

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Dean will decide on the scope and specifications of the post of a professor after hearing 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 of Professor 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**      As proposed

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Record entry 1469/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## 5

### **Description of the post of Professor/Associate Professor of Nursing Science, Health Pedagogy: Hearing of the Faculty Council**

According to 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 Department of Nursing Science of the University of Eastern Finland's Faculty of Health Sciences proposes that the post of Professor/Associate Professor of Nursing Science, Health Pedagogy, be filled at the unit.

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, a person to be appointed to a professorship 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.

A person to be appointed as an 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

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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 August 2026 at the earliest. In the case of an Associate Professor (Tenure Track), the post will be filled for a four-year term starting on 1 August 2026 at the earliest. The post 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 (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** As proposed



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Record entry 1468/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## 6

### **Description of the part-time post of Professor, Palliative Medicine: Hearing of the Faculty Council**

According to 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, the Institute of Clinical Medicine of the University of Eastern Finland's Faculty of Health Sciences proposes that a part-time (30%) post of Professor, Palliative Medicine, be filled at the institute.

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, a person to be appointed to a professorship 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.

The post of a Professor will be filled until further notice starting on 1 July 2026 at the earliest.

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The description of the post (Appendix) includes the scope and specifications of the post required by the UEF University Regulations.

**Motion**

The Faculty Council will discuss the description of the post.

**Decision**

As proposed

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Record entry 1222/01.01.03/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## **7**

### **A proposal on the person to be appointed to the post of University Lecturer, Molecular Biology: Hearing of the Faculty Council**

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Dean shall, after hearing the Faculty Council, decide on persons to be appointed to permanent positions that comply with the four-stage career model (excluding professors, senior university lecturers and senior clinical lecturers).

A call for applications was organised for the post of University Lecturer (Molecular Biology) that will be effective until further notice by the Institute of Clinical Medicine of the University of Eastern Finland's School of Medicine.

Five applicants submitted their applications for the post by the deadline: Kaisa Raninen, Ehsan Shad, Marjo Tuomainen, Maija Vaittinen and Iman Zarei.

Persons to be appointed as University Lecturers must hold a suitable doctoral degree and have good teaching skills (University Regulations).

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Members of the university's teaching and research staff are required to have command of the language they give teaching in (Finnish or Swedish) (Government Decree on Universities 770/2009). The Dean of the faculty can grant an exemption from the language proficiency requirements laid down in the Government Decree on Universities (UEF University Regulations).

The Appointments Committee proposes (Annex) that PhD Maija Vaittinen be appointed to the post of University Lecturer (Molecular Biology) from 1 January 2026 onwards until further notice.

PhD Maija Vaittinen 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.

Maija Vaittinen received a Master's degree (Biosciences/Biochemistry) in 2009 and a Doctoral degree (Clinical Nutrition) in 2014 from the University of Eastern Finland.

Maija Vaittinen's CV and list of publications are enclosed with this agenda item as annexes.

No trial lecture will be required.

**Motion**      The Faculty Council will discuss the proposal.

**Decision**      As proposed

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Record entry 1478/01.01.03/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## 8

### **The scope and specifications of the post of Clinical Lecturer in Nutrition Therapy that will become vacant at the Faculty and a proposal on the person to be appointed to it: Hearing of the Faculty Council**

According to 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. According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Dean shall decide (observing the exceptions laid down in the University Regulations) on persons to be appointed to permanent positions that comply with the four-stage career model after hearing the Faculty Council.

The strategic human resources plan of the Institute of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition of the School of Medicine includes the part-time (20%) post of Clinical Lecturer in Nutrition.

The description of the post of the Clinical Lecturer is as follows:

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The role of the Clinical Teacher is to be a specialist in the more severe diseases of children and adolescents in the degree programme in nutrition. In particular, they will be responsible for gastroenterology, congenital metabolic diseases, kidney diseases and short intestine syndrome.

It is proposed that PhD, Docent Jetta Tuokkola be appointed to the part-time (20%) post of Clinical Lecturer, Nutrition Therapy, without a public call as proposed by the School and the Institute as from 1 January 2026 onwards until further notice. Tuokkola has worked as a fixed-term Clinical Lecturer in Nutrition Therapy at the University of Eastern Finland since 2023.

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, a person to be appointed as a clinical lecturer must hold a suitable doctoral degree. For a special reason, a person who has completed a specialist degree in medicine or dentistry, or a person who has the right to act as a specialist in medicine or dentistry may be appointed as a Clinical Lecturer. Furthermore, a person to be appointed as a Clinical Lecturer shall have good teaching skills.

PhD, Docent Jetta Tuokkola meets the qualification requirements of a Clinical Lecturer, as referred to in the University Regulations, and the prerequisites laid down in the specifications of the post.

Tuokkola's CV and list of publications are enclosed with the agenda item as Annexes.



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No trial lecture will be required.

- Motion**      The Faculty Council will discuss the scope and specifications of the post of Clinical Lecturer and the proposal on the person to be appointed to the post.
- Decision**     As proposed

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Record entry 1445/01.01.03/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## **9**

### **The scope and specifications of the post of Clinical Lecturer in Otorhinolaryngology 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 Clinical Medicine, preparations are made to open the post of Clinical Lecturer. The post will be filled from 1 August 2026 onwards until further notice.

The scope of the post is as follows:

Clinical Lecturer, Otorhinolaryngology

The duties of the clinical lecturer include teaching Bachelor's and Master's level medical students in the specialist field of Otorhinolaryngology and supervising theses for advanced studies; participating in the planning and development of education in the academic subject, in administrative tasks related to teaching and in research activities; and participating in the planning and supervision of specialist education in medicine.



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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.

**Motion**      The Faculty Council will discuss the scope and specifications of the post of Clinical Lecturer (Otorhinolaryngology) that will become vacant at the faculty.

**Decision**      As proposed

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Record entry 1471/01.01.03/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## 10

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

The Department of Nursing Science of the University of Eastern Finland proposes that the post of University Lecturer, Nursing Science, be filled at the department as from 1 August 2026. The position will be hosted by the Department of Nursing Science of the Faculty of Health Sciences on the Kuopio campus.

The scope of the post is as follows:

University Lecturer, Nursing Science

The duties of the University Lecturer include giving teaching in basic, intermediate and advanced studies in accordance with the degree requirements in the academic subject of nursing science, supervising Master's theses and giving other study counselling, teaching and supervising in scientific postgraduate and continuous learning studies, conducting research and development in the field of preventive nursing science, safety and effectiveness of medical treatment in accordance with the strategy of the Department of Nursing Science, as well as participating in the departmental duties, social interaction and international cooperation of the academic subject.

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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.

**Motion**

The Faculty Council will discuss the scope and specifications of the post of University Lecturer (Nursing Science) that will become vacant at the faculty.

**Decision**

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Record entry 1479/01.08.00/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## 11

### **Awarding the title of docent in Drug Utilisation Research to DSc (Pharmacy) Emma Aarnio**

DSc (Pharmacy) Emma Aarnio has proposed that she be awarded the title of docent in the field of Drug Utilisation Research.

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 Jari Haukka (University of Helsinki) and docent of Associate Professor Miia Vesterinen (University of Tampere) as experts.

Docent Haukka submitted his statement on 3 December 2025 and Docent Associate Professor Vesterinen on 9 December 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 the UEF University Regulations, 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 Drug Utilisation Research to DSc (Pharmacy) Emma Aarnio.

## Decision

As proposed

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Record entry 1226/01.08.00/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## **12**

### **Granting the title of docent in Bioinformatics to PhD Lu Cheng**

PhD Lu Cheng has proposed that he be awarded the title of docent in the field of Bioinformatics. 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 Matti Nykter (University of Tampere) and Professor Sampsa Hautaniemi (University of Helsinki) as experts.

Professor Nykter submitted his statement on 6 December 2025 and Professor Hautaniemi 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 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 Bioinformatics to PhD Lu Cheng.

### Decision

As proposed

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Record entry 1228/01.08.00/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## **13**

### **Granting the title of docent in Neurophysiology to PhD Nanxiang Jin**

PhD Nanxiang Jin has proposed that he be awarded the title of docent in the field of Neurophysiology 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 Juha Voipio (University of Helsinki) and Professor Miriam Nokia (University of Jyväskylä) as experts.

Professor Voipio submitted his statement on 25 October 2025 and Professor Nokia on 13 November 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(10) 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 Neurophysiology to PhD Nanxiang Jin.

### Decision

As proposed

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Record entry 1230/01.08.00/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## 14

### **Granting the title of docent in Molecular Genetics to PhD Henna Martiskainen**

PhD Henna Martiskainen has proposed that she be awarded the title of docent in the field of Molecular Genetics 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 Henna Tyynismaa (University of Helsinki) and Docent Tarja Joensuu (Folkhälsan Research Center) as experts.

Professor Tyynismaa submitted her statement on 9 December 2025 and Docent Joensuu on 21 November 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 the UEF University Regulations, 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 Molecular Genetics to PhD Henna Martiskainen.

**Decision** As proposed

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Record entry 15/03.04.09/2025

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

## 15

### Grading MSc Aleksei Afonin'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 Aleksei Afonin's doctoral dissertation and study "[Proteomic signatures of mental health susceptibility in youth plasma](#)" was examined publicly on 28 November 2025. The opponent, Senior Lecturer Jane English (University College Cork, Ireland) 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 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 statements, the Faculty Council grades MSc Aleksei Afonin's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision**      As proposed

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Record entry 15/03.04.09/2025

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

## 16

### Grading MSc Anna Itkonen'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 Anna Itkonen's doctoral dissertation and study "Metabolic effects of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors during pregnancy" was examined publicly on 7 November 2025. The opponent, Professor Hannele Laivuori (University of Tampere) 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 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 statements, the Faculty Council grades MSc Anna Itkonen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision**      As proposed

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17

### Grading Lic.Med. Otto Jokelainen'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. Otto Jokelainen's doctoral dissertation and study "[Hyaluronan Metabolism in Renal Cell Carcinoma: A Histopathological and Transcriptomic Study](#)" was examined publicly on 7 November 2025. The opponent, Docent Tuomas Mirtti (University of Helsinki) 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



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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 statement, the Faculty Council grades Lic.Med. Otto Jokelainen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision** As proposed

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Record entry 15/03.04.09/2025

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

**18**

### **Grading MSc Roosa Kaarijärvi'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 Roosa Kaarijärvi's doctoral dissertation and study "[Exploring prostate cancer drivers: the roles of DPYSL5, DPYSL3B and matrix stiffness in disease progression. Special focus on treatment-induced neuroendocrine prostate cancer](#)" was examined publicly on 21 November 2025. The opponent, Professor Aki Manninen (University of 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

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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 Roosa Kaarijärvi's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision**      As proposed

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Record entry 15/03.04.09/2025

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

## 19

### **Grading Lic.Med. Johanna Kaulamo'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. Johanna Kaulamo's doctoral dissertation and study "[Cough in Finnish elderly:Prevalence, risk factors, recurrence and healthcare use](#)" was examined publicly on 7 November 2025. The opponent, Professor Tuula Vasankari (University of Turku) 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

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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 statement, the Faculty Council grades Lic.Med. Johanna Kaulamo's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision** As proposed

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Record entry 15/03.04.09/2025

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

## 20

### **Grading MSc (Pharmacy) Jussi Kärkkäinen'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 (Pharmacy) Jussi Kärkkäinen's doctoral dissertation and study "[An in vitro approach to explore molecular characteristics supporting LAT1 - mediated transport](#)" was examined publicly on 28 November 2025. The opponent, Professor Tapani Viitala (University of Helsinki) is in favour of the doctoral dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Pharmacy 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

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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 statement, the Faculty Council grades MSc (Pharmacy) Jussi Kärkkäinen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision** As proposed

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Record entry 15/03.04.09/2025

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

## 21

### Grading MHSc Juha Pajari'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.

MHSc Juha Pajari's doctoral dissertation and study "[Nurse educators' self-assessed digital competence in four European countries: recommendations for education and research in health pedagogy](#)" was examined publicly on 5 December 2025. The opponent, Professor Miia Jansson (University of Oulu), is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Health Sciences 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



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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 statement, the Faculty Council grades MHSc Juha Pajari's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision** As proposed

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Record entry 253/03.01.00/2025

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

## 22

### **Specialisation studies in community and hospital pharmacy for chemists and pharmacists, admission criteria for student admissions for 2026 and curriculum**

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council shall make decisions concerning student admission criteria and curricula and degree requirements.

The School of Pharmacy of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Eastern Finland has prepared a proposal for the admission criteria for specialisation studies in community and hospital pharmacy for Bachelors and Masters of Pharmacy for the spring 2026.

The scope of the specialisation studies is 45 ECTS for those with an MSc in Pharmacy and the normative duration of the studies is 4 years. For those with a BSc in Pharmacy, the scope of the studies is 30 ECTS and the normative duration of the studies is 3 years. The training will be carried out in cooperation with the University of Helsinki. The training is subject to a fee (EUR 120 per ECTS).

In 2026, ten (20) students will be admitted in accordance with the enclosed admission criteria to the specialisation studies in community and hospital pharmacy that will begin at the University of Eastern Finland in September

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2026. The scheduled application period is 16 February – 30 April 2026. The training will be carried out if at least five (5) applicants accept the right to study granted to them.

The admission criteria for the specialisation studies in community and hospital pharmacy for 2026 are enclosed with this agenda as an appendix.

The School of Pharmacy has also prepared a curriculum for the specialisation studies in community and hospital pharmacy for the training that will start in autumn 2026. The curriculum is enclosed with the agenda as Annex.

**Motion** The Faculty Council approves the student admission criteria for the specialisation studies in community and hospital pharmacy as proposed and authorises the Dean for Education to make technical changes to the admission criteria.

**Decision** As proposed

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**For information**

Doctoral degrees completed at the University of Eastern Finland 1-11/2025.

Expert statements on Alejandra Sierra Lopez's suitability for the position of professor in the field of Multiscale Neuroimaging and on Vittorio Fortino's suitability for the position of professor in the field of Bioinformatics and Machine Learning.

**Motion**      Marked for information.

**Decision**     As proposed



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### **Closing of the meeting**

The chair will close the meeting.



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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.