

Agenda

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and
Technology

Meeting No 10/2025

Meeting date 26 November 2025

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Date and time 26 November 2025, 13:00 - 15:00

Place Teams

Participants	Role	Additional information
Members		
Lehtinen Kari	Dean, Chair	
Hauta-Kasari Markku	1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair	
Kukkonen Jussi	2nd Vice Dean	
Hujala Teppo	Professor, member	
Tuittila Eeva-Stiina	Professor, deputy member	
Lehto Vesa-Pekka	Professor, member	
Kuittinen Markku	Professor, deputy member	
Jänis Janne	Professor, member	
Pumpanen Jukka	Professor, deputy member	
Berninger Frank	Professor, member	
Tedre Matti	Professor, deputy member	
Miettinen Pauli	Professor, member	
Toivanen Jani	Professor, deputy member	
Tanska Petri	Other staff, member	
Haapala Antti	Other staff, deputy member	
Mononen Maini	Other staff, member	
Turunen Mikael	Other staff, deputy member	
Kopra Juho	Other staff, member	

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Kokkonen Petri	Other staff, deputy member
Pohjoismäki Jaakko	Other staff, member
Asikainen Mervi	Other staff, deputy member
Vainikainen Hanne	Other staff, member
Kumlin Timo	Other staff, deputy member
Merruntaus Kati	Student, member
Ahtonen Tiina	Student, deputy member
Palkovuori Teemu	Student, member
Törö Teemu	Student, deputy member
Partanen Silja	Student, member
Miettinen Mikko	Student, deputy member
Jankova Simona	Student, member
Rautiainen Kaisa	Student, deputy member
Helvelahti Tomi	Student, member
Sheng Li	Student, deputy member
Hirvonen Arja	Executive Head of Administration, secretary, preparer

Other preparers

Merimaa-Piirainen Maarit Head of Academic Affairs

Riikka Levänen

Niina Laatikainen

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Items to be discussed at the meeting

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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 19 November 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 via Teams.

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

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Record entry 606/01.08.00/2025

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

3

Granting the title of docent to PhD Saranya Palaniswamy in the field of Environmental Epidemiology

PhD Saranya Palaniswamy has applied for the title of docent in the field of Environmental Epidemiology at the Department of Environmental and Biological Sciences of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology of the University of Eastern Finland. PhD Palaniswamy's application and related attachments 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 independent research or artistic work demonstrated through publications or in some other manner, and good teaching skills.

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

By a decision dated 18 August 2025, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology appointed Research Director Jaakko Kaprio (University of Helsinki, Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland FIMM, Department of Public

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Health) and Research Professor Hannu Kiviranta (the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare) to submit their expert statements on the scientific qualifications of PhD Saranya Palaniswamy in the field of Environmental Epidemiology. Research Director Jaakko Kaprio and Research Professor Hannu Kiviranta have stated PhD Palaniswamy is scientifically qualified in the field that her title of docent application concerns. The statements of the experts are enclosed with this agenda item as appendices.

A person to be awarded the title of docent is required to have good teaching skills (Universities Act 558/2009). As a rule, good teaching skills are assessed on the basis of application documents and, if this cannot be verified on the basis of merits, the Dean may decide that a trial lecture be required. By a decision of 18 August 2025, the Dean has exempted Saranya Palaniswamy from the requirement to give a trial lecture and has determined her teaching merits based on the application documents.

Motion

The Faculty Council states that PhD Saranya Palaniswamy meets the criteria set out in the Universities Act for the title of docent and grants her the title of docent at the University of Eastern Finland in the field of Environmental Epidemiology as of 1 December 2025.

Decision

Annexes

Annex 1	Sarana Palaniswamy's application and related attachments
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Annex 2

Expert statements (Kaprio and Kiviranta)

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Record entry 1131/01.08.00/2025

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

4

Granting the title of docent in the field of Sport Technology, special field in biomechanics

DSc (Sport and Health Sciences) Jarmo Piirainen has applied for the title of docent in the field Sport Technology, special field in biomechanics at the Department of Technical Physics of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology of the University of Eastern Finland. DSc (Sport and Health Sciences) Jarmo Piirainen's application and related attachments 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 independent research or artistic work demonstrated through publications or in some other manner, and good teaching skills.

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

By a decision dated 12 September 2025, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology appointed Professor (emeritus) Timo Jämsä (University of Oulu, Medical Technology) and Research Director, Docent Harri Sievänen (UKK Institute, Tampere) to provide expert statements on the scientific qualifications

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of DSc (Sport and Health Sciences) Jarmo Piirainen in the field of Sport Technology, special field in biomechanics. Jämsä and Sievänen have stated that DSc (Sport and Health Sciences) Jarmo Piirainen is scientifically qualified in the field that his title of docent application concerns. The statements of the experts are enclosed with this agenda item as appendices.

A person to be awarded the title of docent is required to have good teaching skills (Universities Act 558/2009). As a rule, good teaching skills are assessed on the basis of application documents and, if this cannot be verified on the basis of merits, the Dean may decide that a trial lecture be required. By a decision of 12 September 2025, the Dean has exempted Piirainen from the requirement to give a trial lecture and has determined his teaching merits based on the application documents.

Motion

The Faculty Council states that DSc (Sport and Health Sciences) Jarmo Piirainen meets the criteria set out in the Universities Act for the title of docent and grants him the title of docent at the University of Eastern Finland in the field of Sport Technology, special field in biomechanics as of 1 December 2025.

Decision

Annexes

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Annex 3 | Jarmo Piirainen's application and attachments |
| Annex 4 | Expert statements (Jämsä and Sievänen) |

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Record entry 1250/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

5

Description of the post of Professor, Teaching Technology, in particular AI in Learning Analytics, and the Dean's proposal to invite Associate Professor Mohamed Saqr Abdelgalil to the post. Hearing of the Faculty Council

PhD Mohamed Saqr Abdelgalil has been appointed to the post of Associate Professor, Teaching Technology, in particular AI in Learning Analytics (Tenure Track), from 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2027. Associate Professor Mohamed Saqr Abdelgalil has requested that the evaluation be completed ahead of the schedule, which the faculty has supported (Tenure Track Committee, 9 October 2025). The post of Professor is hosted by the Faculty's School of Computing on the Joensuu campus.

The faculty's evaluation committee in accordance with section 30 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland consisted of Dean of the Faculty Kari Lehtinen (Chair), Deputy Dean Markku Hauta-Kasari and Professor Mikko Karttunen from the Faculty of Technical Physics.

Based on the submitted documents and an interview, the Appointments Committee came to the conclusion that the legal prerequisites to initiate the invitation procedure are met and that Associate Professor Mohamed Saqr Abdelgalil can be invited to a professorship in his field.

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The memorandum of the Appointments Committee and Saqr's CV, teaching portfolio, and list of publications are enclosed with the agenda item as annexes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion

The Faculty Council will discuss the description of the post of Professor, Teaching Technology, in particular AI in Learning Analytics, and the Dean's proposal on the person to be invited to it.

Decision

Annexes

Annex 5	Evaluation memorandum of the Appointments Committee
Annex 6	Mohammed Saqr's CV, teaching portfolio, and list of publications
Annex 7	Draft description of the post

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Record entry 1127/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

6

The Dean's proposal on the person to be appointed to the post of Assistant Professor, Forest Information Technologies (Tenure Track): Hearing of the Faculty Council

According to section 10 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Dean shall make proposals to the Rector on the persons to be appointed to professorships with a term of two years or over, and to Tenure Track positions after hearing the Faculty Council.

The School of Forest Sciences intends to fill the post of Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) of Forest Information Technologies by recruiting DSc (Agr. & For.) Tuomas Yrttimaa to it without a public call.

The description of the post is as follows:

The field of research and teaching of the Assistant Professor is forest information technologies. The post requires strong expertise in producing and utilising forest resources data, in particular in applying terrestrial laser scanning and other new technology solutions in the forest sector. The role is research-oriented and includes the acquisition of external research funding, the launching and management of research projects, high-quality publishing in the field, teaching and supervision duties (including the supervision of theses), and academic and societal expert duties. The post

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will strengthen international research networks and cooperation in the field of forest information technologies. The post also includes the development of research infrastructure in the field.

The appointments committee in accordance with section 30 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland consisted of: Chair, Dean Kari Lehtinen; Professor Matti Maltamo from the School of Forest Sciences; Professor Timo Kumpula from the Department of Geographical and Historical Studies (YHKA); and Head of the School of Forest Sciences, Research Director Jukka Tikkanen.

The selection memorandum prepared by the Appointments Committee is enclosed as an annex. In addition, the joint expert statement of Professor Arne Nothdurft (Institute of Forest Growth, Austria) and Professor Terje Gobakken (Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway) is attached.

DSc (Agr. & For.) Tuomas Yrttimaa is exempted from the requirement to give a trial lecture because he has sufficient experience of university-level teaching and supervision that supports his appointment to the post. It can be stated that he has the good teaching skills required by the post. Yrttimaa's CV, teaching portfolio, and list of publications are enclosed with this agenda item as annexes.

The Dean's proposal to the Rector is that DSc (Agr. & For.) Tuomas Yrttimaa be appointed to the post of Assistant Professor, Forest Information Technologies, as of 1 December 2025 (or as agreed) for a fixed

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period of 4 years. The position is filled for a fixed term due to it being a
Tenure Track position.

Motion

1. The Faculty Council will address the proposal for the scope and specifications of the post of Associate Professor.
2. The Faculty Council will address the proposal for the person to be appointed to the position.

Decision

Annexes

Annex 8	Memorandum of the Appointments Committee
Annex 9	Expert statement, Arne Nothdurft and Terje Gobakken
Annex 10	Tuomas Yrttimaa's CV, teaching portfolio, and list of publications

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Record entry 1102/01.01.03/2025

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

7

The proposal of the Head of the School of Forest Sciences on the person to be appointed to the post of University Lecturer, Forest Technology. Hearing of the Faculty Council

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will discuss proposals regarding the scope and specifications of posts that comply with the four-stage career model of the faculty's permanent teaching and research staff and Tenure Track positions.

The description of the post of University Lecturer, forest technology, was approved at the meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology on 24 September 2025.

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

An open call for applications was organised for the post. A total of 2 applicants applied to the post by the deadline of 3 November 2025: DSc (Agr. & For.) Heli Kymäläinen and DSc (Agr. & For.) Ville Vähä-Konka.

Jukka Tikkanen, Head of the School of Forest Sciences, proposes in the summary of his selection memorandum that DSc (Agr. & For.) Heli

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Kymäläinen be appointed to the vacant post as from 1 January 2026 until further notice.

The Head of the School, Research Director Jukka Tikkanen and Deputy Head, Associate Professor Lauri Korhonen, who interviewed the applicants, propose that DSc (Agr. & For.) Heli Kymäläinen be exempted from the requirement to give a trial lecture, observing her teaching and supervision merits.

The selection memorandum and Kymäläinen's CV, teaching portfolio and list of publications are enclosed with the agenda item as annexes.

Persons to be appointed as University Lecturers must hold a suitable doctoral degree and have good teaching skills (University Regulations, section 31). The person to be appointed to the position is expected to be fluent in Finnish and be able to also teach in English where required.

The Dean of the faculty has exempted DSc (Agr. & For.) Heli Kymäläinen from the requirement to give a trial lecture on the grounds that she has sufficient practical experience in university-level teaching and, therefore, the good teaching skills required by the post of a university lecturer have been demonstrated.

DSc (Agr. & For.) Heli Kymäläinen meets the qualification requirements of a university lecturer referred to in the UEF University Regulations, and the prerequisites laid down in the specifications of the post.

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The Dean of the Faculty will hear the Faculty Council on a proposal of the Head of the School regarding the filling of the post of University Lecturer, Forest Technology.

Motion

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

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Annex 11	Heli Kymäläinen's CV, teaching portfolio, and list of publications
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Record entry No 19/00.03.03/2025

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

8

The budget of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology for 2026 and the financial outcome for 2025

According to section 9(2) of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council addresses the starting points of the faculty's budget preparation and operational planning, as well as financial performance reports and the budget. In accordance with the UEF University Regulations, the university's board approves a binding profit centre -specific budget for all areas of responsibility of the university in compliance with the confirmed classification of the areas of responsibility.

Budget for 2026

The faculty's funding consists of core funding and external funding.

External funding plays a key role in the implementation of the faculty's activities, and its share of the total funding is 45%. The target level specified in the budget for 2026 is EUR 33 million.

Core funding consists of the following items:

- Indicator-based funding
- Funding for additional study places

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- Strategic funding and equalisation instalments

The core funding also includes funding for the doctoral pilots, which will be treated as a separate instalment in accordance with the conditions of the pilots. The additional impact of doctoral pilots in 2026 is estimated to be 2.7 million.

The faculty has an internal funding model, which is based on the university's revenue model and includes rent compensation.

Financial outcome for 2025

Financial reporting will monitor the implementation of the official budget of the university confirmed by the Board during the year. The report includes internal revenues and expenses. Three times a year, the realisation of the budget will be reviewed: for January-April, January-August and January-December. The realisation is based on accounting. The faculty's analysis and forecast of the realisation of the budget constitute part of the reporting. The first two reports also include a forecast of the result for the financial year.

In August, the faculty's expected result complies with the budget.

Motion

The Faculty Council will address the starting points of the faculty's budget preparation and operational planning, as well as the financial performance reports and the budget



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Record entry 60/03.04.09/2025

Prepared by Niina Laatikainen

9

Grading MSc Maria Cojocari's doctoral dissertation in the field of Physics

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 32 of the Education Regulations, dissertations are graded on the scale pass with distinction, pass, and fail.

MSc Maria Cojocari's doctoral dissertation and study [Metamaterials and carbon-based thin films for terahertz absorption and bolometric detection](#) was examined publicly on 17 October 2025. The opponent, Research Professor Emeritus Zoran Ivić (Department of Theoretical and Condensed Matter Physics, Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences, University of Belgrade, National Institute of Republic of Serbia, Serbia) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Philosophy and proposes the grade Pass.

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

Decision**Annexes**

Annex 12

Statement of the opponent, Zoran Ivić

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Record entry 60/03.04.09/2025

Prepared by Riikka Levänen

10

Grading MSc Tsedeke Habe's doctoral dissertation in the field of Computer Science

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 32 of the Education Regulations, dissertations are graded on the scale pass with distinction, pass, and fail.

MSc Tsedeke Habe's doctoral dissertation and study [Towards Real-time Pathology Detection in Wireless Capsule Endoscopy Imaging Based on Deep Learning](#) was examined publicly on 7 November 2025. The opponent, Professor Robin Strand (Department of Information Technology, Uppsala University, Sweden), is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Philosophy and proposes the grade Pass.

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

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Annex 13

Statement of the opponent, Robin Strand

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Record entry 60/03.04.09/2025

Prepared by Niina Laatikainen

11

Grading MSc Maiju Karjalainen's doctoral dissertation in the field of Computer Science

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 32 of the Education Regulations, dissertations are graded on the scale pass with distinction, pass, and fail.

MSc Maiju Karjalainen's doctoral dissertation and study [Trading Accuracy for Privacy and Speed in Pattern Mining](#) was examined publicly on 24 October 2025. The opponent, Professor Jilles Vreeken (CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security, Germany) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in philosophy and proposes the grade Pass.

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

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Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MSc Maiju Karjalainen's dissertation as Pass.

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Annex 14

Statement of the opponent, Jilles Vreeken

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Record entry 60/03.04.09/2025

Prepared by Niina Laatikainen

12

Grading MSc Aleksi Nirhamo's doctoral dissertation in the field of Forest Sciences

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 32 of the Education Regulations, dissertations are graded on the scale pass with distinction, pass, and fail.

MSc Aleksi Nirhamo's doctoral dissertation and study [Epiphytic lichen diversity in pine-dominated boreal forests: community dynamics in relation to snag dynamics and disturbances](#) was examined publicly on 31 October 2025. The opponent, Associate Professor Mari Jönsson (Department of Ecology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Philosophy and proposes the grade Pass.

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

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Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MSc Aleksi Nirhamo's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

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Annex 15

Statement of the opponent, Mari Jönsson

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For information

Statistics on the faculty's Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees on 18
November 2025 (Annex).

Composition of the Research Ethics Committee from 1 January 2026 to 31
December 2029 (Annex)

Topical faculty matters.

Motion Marked for information.

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Annexes

Annex 16	Tutkintotilasto_marraskuu_2025
Annex 17	Composition of the Research Ethics Committee of the University of Eastern Finland for the term of office from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2029

Agenda

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and
Technology

Meeting No 10/2025

Meeting date 26 November 2025

33 (34)

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Closing of the meeting

The chair will close the meeting.

Agenda

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and
Technology

Meeting No 10/2025

Meeting date 26 November 2025

34 (34)

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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.