

## Minutes

Faculty Council of the Philosophical Faculty

Meeting No 1/2026

Meeting date 28 January 2026

1 (28)

**Date and time** 28 January 2026, 10:15 – 11:30

**Place** Teams

Participants	Role	Present for items
Members		
Huhta Ilkka	Dean, Chair	1-2,4-10
Laasonen Marja	1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair	1-3, Chair in item 3
Honkalampi Kirsi	Professor, member	1-10
Souto Anne-Mari	Professor, deputy member	
Lappalainen Hanna	Professor, member	1-10
Saresma Tuija	Professor, deputy member	
Kantelinen Ritva	Professor, member	1-10
Tuominen Heta	Professor, deputy member	
Ubani Martin	Professor, member	1-10
Kallinen Timo	Professor, deputy member	1-10
Mikkonen Simo	Professor, member	1-10
Sointu Erkko	Professor, deputy member	1-10
Laakkonen Erja	Staff, member	1-10
Waltzer Katariina	Staff, deputy member	1-10
Arminen Elina	Staff, member	1-10
Suokas Juho	Staff, deputy member	
Kaivosaaari Annu	Staff, member	1-10

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Viinikka Kaisa	Staff, deputy member	1–10
Salonen Anna	Staff, member	1–10
Mikkola Sini	Staff, deputy member	
Korkki Jyrki	Staff, member	1-3,5-10
Räty-Záborszky Sinikka	Staff, deputy member	
Kivikoski Emilia	Student, member	1-3,5-10
Närhi Jasmin	Student, deputy member	
Baljashkin Janina	Student, member	1-3,5-10
Lahtinen Matilda	Student, deputy member	
Koskelo Marko	Student, member	1-3,5-10
Palkovuori Jutta	Student, deputy member	
Palkovuori Teemu	Student, member	1-3,5-10
Sillanpää Silja	Student, deputy member	
Pesonen Jussi	Student, member	1-3,5-10
To be named later	Student, deputy member	
Nevalainen Henni	Executive Head of Administration, secretary, preparer	1–10
Other preparers		
Anttonen Salli	Academic Affairs Specialist	1–6
Kouki Satu	Head of Academic Affairs	1–7
Myllys Riikka	Academic Affairs Specialist	1–7

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### Items discussed at the meeting

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### § 1

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

The chair opened the meeting at 10:16.

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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 January 2026.

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.

Record entry 662/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Henni Nevalainen

§ 3

**The Dean's proposal on the person to be appointed to the post of Professor, Church History: hearing of the Faculty Council**

According to section 10(9) 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 call for applications to the post of Professor, Church History, ended on 8 September 2025. Applications were received from the following persons (5): PhD Kotilainen Sofia, PhD Kuha Miia, Th.D. Meriläinen Juha, Th.D. Mikkola Sini and PhD Parppei Kati.

In accordance with section 31 of the Universities Act (558/2009), statements must be requested before the appointment on the qualification and merits of the applicants or the person to be invited to the post in question from a minimum of two experts when the 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 on disqualification shall be applied to the experts. Where required, the selection, scope of work and duties of the experts shall be defined in the UEF University Regulations.

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On a proposal of the Appointments Committee (Dean Janne Pietarinen, Professor Esa Penttilä, Professor Timo Kallinen and Professor Lauri Thurén), applicants (3) who best meet the qualification criteria of the post and the requirements indicated in the description of the post were selected as the key candidates: Juha Meriläinen, Sini Mikkola and Kati Parppei.

Expert statements were requested on the qualification and merits of the applicants from the following persons, based on the Dean's decision of 20 October 2025: Professor Outi Fingerroos, University of Jyväskylä, and Professor (Emerita) Aila Lauha, University of Helsinki.

The Appointments Committee of the post of Professor, Church History, has proposed that Sini Mikkola be appointed to the post. The selection memorandum that includes a comparison of applicants is enclosed with this agenda item.

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, have practical knowledge of the scope of the post.

Sini Mikkola meets the qualification requirements of a professor referred to in section 31 of the UEF University Regulations. She is scientifically

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qualified for the post of Professor, Church History. By the decision of the Chair of the Appointments Committee, Mikkola has been exempted from the requirement to give a trial lecture. The teaching skills of Mikkola have been estimated to meet the requirements of section 31 of the UEF University Regulations (good teaching skills).

The Dean's proposal to the Rector is that Th.D. Sini Mikkola be appointed to the post of Professor, Church History, for a fixed term of four years, and the post will begin as agreed. It is proposed that Juha Meriläinen be the second-choice candidate. Meriläinen has been exempted from the requirement to give a trial lecture. The teaching skills of Meriläinen have been estimated to meet the requirements of section 31 of the UEF University Regulations (good teaching skills).

**Motion** The Dean will consult the Faculty Council on the proposal to appoint Th.D. Sini Mikkola to the post of Professor, Church History. It is proposed that Juha Meriläinen be the second-choice candidate.

**Decision** As proposed.

## Annexes

- 1 Expert statement, Professor Outi Fingerroos: Professor, Church History
- 2 Expert statement, Professor (Emerita) Aila Lauha: Professor, Church History



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- 3 Application documents, Th.D. Sini Mikkola: Professor, Church History
- 4 Application documents, Th.D. Juha Meriläinen: Professor, Church History
- 5 Selection memorandum and comparison of applicants: Professor, Church History

Record entry 50/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Salli Anttonen

§ 4

**Grading MEd Hans Lehtikainen's doctoral dissertation in the field of Educational Science**

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 Hans Lehtikainen's doctoral dissertation and study "Temporal Dynamics of Mathematics Motivation and Achievement: The Predictive Role of Solo- and Co-Teaching" was examined publicly on 16 January 2026. The opponent Professor (Emeritus) Erno Lehtinen (University of Turku) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Education and proposes the grade Pass with distinction.

According to section 44 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), before a doctoral dissertation is graded, the author must be given an opportunity to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the 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.

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

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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/server/api/core/bitstreams/84ada063-47a5-426c-a05a-c7c93241a750/content>

**Motion** Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MEd Hans Lehtikainen's doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

**Decision** As proposed.

## Annexes

- 6 Statements on the dissertation: opponent Professor (Emeritus) Erno Lehtinen, custos Professor Heta Tuominen, doctoral candidate MEd Hans Lehtikainen

Record entry 503/00.02.01/2025

Prepared by Satu Kouki

§ 5

**Transfer of the decision-making power of the Faculty Council in matters related to curricula and student admission criteria**

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will make decisions, among others, concerning curricula, degree requirements and student admission criteria. The Faculty Council may devolve a matter which would fall within its remit to be resolved by the Dean or by a head of a unit which is subordinate to the faculty. From the point of view of smooth operations, it is purposeful that the faculty council delegates its decision-making power in the manner described below.

The curriculum refers to an entity that consists of the degree structure and the learning outcomes, contents, methods of completion and assessment methods of the degree and its parts (section 2 of the Education Regulations). Offered courses refer to the implementation of courses verified in the curricula in the next academic year and, possibly, a more detailed implementation schedule (e.g., at semester or period level). The syllabus refers to the teaching and examination schedules. The syllabus can also confirm, for example, the teachers and examiners, study materials and literature, implementation of teaching as remote or on-campus teaching and location information, if these are not confirmed elsewhere (for more details, see the Academic Rector's decision 17/2024,

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26 April 2024 [Guidelines for the development of Bachelor's and Master's degree courses in curriculum work for 2025–2028](#) (in Finnish)

Guidelines for the development of Bachelor's and Master's degree courses in curriculum work for 2025–2028).

1. Transfer of decision-making power to the Vice Dean for Research
  - Approving minor changes to curricula for scientific postgraduate studies. Significant changes are always approved by the Faculty Council. Significant changes include changes in the structure of a degree and the discontinuation of a course that was previously approved for the curriculum in such a way that it can no longer be completed in any way.
  - Approving the courses offered to scientific postgraduate students for the next academic year.
  - Approving the syllabi for scientific postgraduate studies for the next academic year.
  - Approving minor changes to student admission criteria for scientific postgraduate studies.
  - Grading doctoral dissertations during the period between the last Faculty Council meeting of the semester and the first Faculty Council meeting of the following semester.

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2. Transfer of decision-making power to the Vice Dean for Education

- Approving minor changes to curricula for other than scientific postgraduate studies (excluding syllabi).

Significant changes are always approved by the Faculty Council. Significant changes include changes in the structure of a degree and the discontinuation of a course that was previously approved for the curriculum in such a way that it can no longer be completed in any way.

- Approving the courses offered to other than scientific postgraduate students for the next academic year.
- Approving minor changes to student admission criteria for other than scientific postgraduate studies.

3. Transfer of decision-making power to the Deputy Head of the school in charge of education

- Approving the syllabi for other than scientific postgraduate studies for the next academic year.

If the teaching concerns more than one school, the Vice Dean for Education shall decide on the syllabus after consulting the Deputy Heads of the schools.

## Motion

The Faculty Council will transfer its decision-making power to the Vice Deans and Deputy Heads of schools as set out in the above, except for matters related to the grading of doctoral dissertations.



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**Decision**      As proposed.

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Record entry 2046/03.01.00/2024

Prepared by Riikka Myllys

§ 6

### **Approval of admission criteria for supplementary admissions for 2026**

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 Faculty Council of the Philosophical Faculty approved the shared sections of the student admission criteria for education offered in Finnish for 2026 and the admission criteria for studies leading to a Bachelor's or a Master's degree for 2026 at its meeting of 25 September 2025.

In August 2026, supplementary admissions will be organised to programmes, in which all available study places were not filled in the second joint admission of spring 2023. In the supplementary admissions, certificate grades (i.e., matriculation examination grades) are used, and the admission criteria are the same as in the joint admissions in the spring. The shared sections of the student admission criteria for the education offered in Finnish will be followed in the supplementary admissions as regards demonstrating Finnish language skills. The supplementary admission round is part of a separate admission process.

The Deputy Head in charge of education at the School of Educational Sciences and Psychology proposes to the Faculty Council that it approves the admission criteria for supplementary admissions to the Bachelor's and



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Master's (3 years + 2 years) degree programmes of Education and Adult Education, Joensuu. The degree programme will be included in supplementary admissions if all available study places are not filled in the second joint admission round in the spring.

### Motion

The Faculty Council approves the admission criteria for supplementary admissions to the Bachelor's and Master's (3 years + 2 years) degree programmes of Education and Adult Education, Joensuu, for 2026 as set out in the Annex.

### Decision

As proposed.

### Annexes

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 7 | Supplementary admissions 2026: Education and Adult Education |
|---|--|

Record entry 1035/01.08.00/2025

Prepared by Henni Nevalainen

§ 7

### **Granting the title of docent to PhD Raisa Harju-Autti**

PhD Raisa Harju-Autti has applied for the title of docent in Language Education, especially Language Awareness and Linguistic Support in Education, at the University of Eastern Finland. The application for the title of docent was initiated on 12 August 2025 at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Eastern Finland.

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 some other manner, and good teaching skills.

The School of Applied Educational Science and Teacher Education has considered the docentship applied for by PhD Raisa Harju-Autti to be purposeful for the teaching and research of the School based on the following grounds: "The research conducted by PhD Raisa Harju-Autti focuses on language education and language awareness in different educational contexts. She has also participated in the study of the national state of language education. The fields of research are clearly linked to the research carried out at the School of Applied Educational Science and Teacher Education and bring an important addition to the research and development work that is being carried out in various areas of education.

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Raisa Harju-Autti's research collaboration at various universities is extensive. She already has collaboration activities with the University of Eastern Finland and the docentship will support the continuation and intensification of this collaboration."

The Dean of the Philosophical Faculty decided (on 25 September 2025) to invite Professor Lari Kotilainen (University of Helsinki) and Professor Pigga Keskitalo (University of Lapland) as experts to provide statements on the scientific competence of PhD Raisa Harju-Autti for the title of docent in Language Education, especially Language Awareness and Linguistic Support in Education. Both experts are in favour of awarding the title of docent to Harju-Autti.

A person to be awarded the title of docent is required to have good teaching skills (Universities Act 558/2009). The Dean may exempt the applicant from the requirement to give a trial lecture if the teaching merits can be verified in some other manner in accordance with the faculty's instructions on awarding the title of docent. By a decision of 12 December 2025, the Dean has exempted Harju-Autti from the requirement to give a trial lecture and has determined her teaching merits based on the application documents.

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council shall decide on awarding the title of docent.

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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 Philosophical Faculty for the title of docent.

**Motion** The Faculty Council states that PhD Raisa Harju-Autti meets the criteria set for the title of docent in the Universities Act and awards her the title of docent in Language Education, especially Language Awareness and Linguistic Support in Education at the University of Eastern Finland.

**Decision** As proposed.

## Annexes

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 8  | Expert statement, Professor Lari Kotilainen: awarding the title of docent, PhD Raisa Harju-Autti |
| 9  | Expert statement, Professor Pigga Keskitalo: awarding the title of docent, PhD Raisa Harju-Autti |
| 10 | Application documents, PhD Raisa Harju-Autti: awarding the title of docent                       |

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Record entry 513/01.08.00/2025

Prepared by Henni Nevalainen

§ 8

### **Granting the title of docent to DEd Virve Keränen**

DEd Virve Keränen has applied for the title of Docent in Education, especially Early Childhood Education at the University of Eastern Finland. The application for the title of docent was initiated on 02 April 2025 at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Eastern Finland.

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 some other manner, and good teaching skills.

The School of Applied Educational Science and Teacher Education has considered the docentship applied for by DEd Virve Keränen to be purposeful for the teaching and research of the School based on the following grounds: "Virve Keränen's research profile focuses on themes that are important to the school, such as feminist pedagogy. Another interesting theme is linked to the area of childhood research. In this area, she has studied childhood-related themes that are often glossed over: touch, bodiliness and gendered practices. Virve Keränen's research focuses, in particular, on early childhood education and research conducted in early childhood education. These fields of research bring a good addition to the research and development work that is being carried

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out in education. Virve Keränen has started research collaboration with Professor Päivi Pihlaja, and the docentship will strengthen the implementation of this collaboration. Keränen also collaborates with UEF researchers as a member of the board of the national Finnish Society for Childhood Studies.”

The Dean of the Philosophical Faculty decided (on 26 June 2025) to invite Associate Professor Eija Sevón (University of Jyväskylä) and Docent Satu Valkonen (University of Helsinki) as experts. Docent Satu Valkonen estimated in her statement of 16 September 2025 that Keränen's scientific work does not yet sufficiently support the granting of the title of docent. The School of Applied Educational Science and Teacher Education proposed Associate Professor Maiju Paananen (University of Tampere) as the third expert. Sevón and Paananen, the experts appointed by the Dean, are in favour of granting the title of docent in Education, especially Early Childhood Education, to Keränen.

A person to be awarded the title of docent is required to have good teaching skills (Universities Act 558/2009). The Dean may exempt the applicant from the requirement to give a trial lecture if the teaching merits can be verified in some other manner in accordance with the faculty's instructions on awarding the title of docent. By a decision of 30 December 2025, the Dean has exempted Keränen from the requirement to give a trial lecture and has determined his teaching merits based on the application documents.

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According to section 9 of 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 Philosophical Faculty for the title of docent.

**Motion** The Faculty Council states that DEd Virve Keränen meets the criteria set for the title of docent in the Universities Act and awards Keränen the title of docent in Education, especially Early Childhood Education at the University of Eastern Finland.

**Decision** As proposed.

## Annexes

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 11 | Expert statement, Associate Professor Eija Sevon: awarding the title of docent, DEd Virve Keränen       |
| 12 | Expert statement, docent University Lecturer Satu Valkonen: awarding title of docent, DEd Virve Keränen |
| 13 | Expert statement, Associate Professor Maiju Paananen: awarding the title of docent, DEd Virve Keränen   |
| 14 | Application documents, DEd Keränen: awarding the title of docent  |

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Record entry 667/01.08.00/2025

Prepared by Henni Nevalainen

§ 9

### **Granting the title of docent to PhD Pia Mikander**

PhD Pia Mikander has applied for the title of docent in Education, especially Social Research in Education, at the University of Eastern Finland. The application for the title of docent was initiated on 13 May 2025 at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Eastern Finland.

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 some other manner, and good teaching skills.

The School of Educational Sciences and Psychology has considered the docentship applied for by PhD Pia Mikander to be purposeful for the teaching and research of the School based on the following grounds: "The academic subject of Educational Science and Adult Education at the University of Eastern Finland examines inequality and fairness in education. Mikander's societal research in education would complement the research carried out by the academic subject and would offer many collaboration opportunities. Pia Mikander's expertise would increase and expand, in particular, the wide-ranging teaching and research activities of the academic subject of Education and Adult Education, thus adding to the expertise of the School and the faculty also more widely."



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The Dean of the Philosophical Faculty decided (on 2 September 2025) to invite Professor Ulpukka Isopahkala-Bouret (University of Turku) and Professor Nelli Piattoeva (University of Tampere) as experts to provide statements on the scientific qualification of PhD Pia Mikander for the title of docent in Education, especially Social Research in Education. Both experts are in favour of awarding the title of docent to Mikander.

A person to be awarded the title of docent is required to have good teaching skills (Universities Act 558/2009). The Dean may exempt the applicant from the requirement to give a trial lecture if the teaching merits can be verified in some other manner in accordance with the faculty's instructions on awarding the title of docent. By a decision of 19 December 2025, the Dean has exempted Mikander from the requirement to give a trial lecture and has determined her teaching merits based on the application documents.

According to section 9 of 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 Philosophical Faculty for the title of docent.

## Motion

The Faculty Council states that PhD Pia Mikander meets the criteria set for the title of docent in the Universities Act and awards Mikander the title of

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docent in Education, especially Social Research in Education, at the University of Eastern Finland.

**Decision** As proposed.

### Annexes

- 15 Expert statement, Professor Ulpukka Isopahkala-Bouret:  
awarding title of docent, PhD Pia Mikander
- 16 Expert statement, Professor Nelli Piattoeva: awarding the title  
of docent, PhD Pia Mikander
- 17 Application documents, PhD Pia Mikander: awarding the title  
of docent

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§ 10

### **Closing of the meeting**

The chair closed the meeting at 11:30.

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### § 11

#### **Translation of the agenda/minutes**

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

#### Annexes

18	Translation of the agenda, 28 January 2026
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