

Agenda

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences
Meeting No 3/2026
Meeting date 26 March 2026

1 (37)

Date and time 26 March 2026 at

Place

Participants	Role	Additional information
Members		
Forsberg Markus	Dean, Chair	1-16
Leinonen Ville	1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair	1-16
Tohka Jussi	Professor, member	1-16
Haapasalo Annakaisa	Professor, deputy member	
Kauppinen Anu	Professor, member	1-16
Ketolainen Jarkko	Professor, deputy member	
Härkänen Marja	Professor, member	
Välimäki Tarja	Professor, deputy member	1-16
Tuomainen Tomi-Pekka	Professor, member	1-16
Pussinen Pirkko	Professor, deputy member	
Heinäniemi Merja	Professor, member	
Kuittinen Outi	Professor, deputy member	1-16
Tampio Janne	Staff, member	1-16
Rauramaa Tuomas	Staff, deputy member	1-16
Lajunen Tatu	Staff, member	1-16
Tirkkonen Tiina	Staff, deputy member	



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Kotikumpu Kari	Staff, member	1-16
Küblbeck Jenni	Staff, deputy member	
Lahtela-Kakkonen Maija	Staff, member	1-16
Niemi Inkeri	Staff, deputy member	
Heikkilä Reeta	Staff, member	1-16
Lehtonen Sarka	Staff, deputy member	
Kalenius Nea	Student, member	1-16
Lähteenmäki Eino	Student, deputy member	
Nurmela Veera	Student, member	1-11
Ahvonen Otto	Student, deputy member	
Salokangas Ville	Student, member	1-16
Halonen Kasper	Student, deputy member	
Kuosmanen Aino	Student, member	1-16
Saadi Shadi	Student, deputy member	
Tallbacka Senja	Student, member	
To be named later	Student, deputy member	
Ollikainen-Richards Hanna	Executive Head of Administration, secretary, preparer	1-16
Other preparers		
Järvelin-Pasanen Susanna	Head of Student Services	1-16
Koistinen Annika	Academic Affairs Specialist	1-16



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Minutes

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Meeting No 1/2026

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1

Opening of the meeting

The chair opened the meeting at 14:00.

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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 March 2026.

According to the UEF University Regulations, multi-member administrative bodies of the university have a quorum when at least half of the members, including the chair, are present. By the decision of the chair, a multi-member administrative body can hold its meeting by email or, either fully or in part, via a video conference, telephone, or some other remote participation means. The chair has decided that the meeting be organised as a hybrid meeting (ME201 + Teams).

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

Decision As proposed.



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Record entry 536/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

3

The Dean's proposal to the Rector of the University of Eastern Finland on the appointment of MD Markku Lähteenvuo to the post of Professor, Forensic Psychiatry, 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 Professor, Forensic Psychiatry.

One applicant applied for the post by the deadline: Markku Lähteenvuo.

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.

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.

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By decision of 8 April 2025 of the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, the person to be appointed to the post is 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 Birgit Völlm (Universitätmedizin Rostock) and Professor Sami Pirkola (University of Tampere).

Based on the application documents, expert statements, and interviews, the Appointments Committee proposes that Markku Lähteenvuo be appointed to the vacant post as of 1 April 2026 until further notice.

According to 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.

Markku Lähteenvuo is not required to give a trial lecture.

Motion The Faculty Council will discuss the proposed appointment.

Decision As proposed.



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Record entry 5541/01.01.02/2024

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

4

The Dean's proposal to the Rector of the University of Eastern Finland on the appointment of PhD Roberto Ariel Abeldaño Zuñiga to the post of Professor, Nursing Science, until further notice: Hearing of the Faculty Council

By his decision, the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences has approved the description of the post of Professor/Associate Professor of Nursing Science.

By the deadline, nine applicants submitted their application for the post of Professor/Associate Professor, two of whom withdrew their application during the recruitment process. The other applicants were: Roberto Ariel Abeldaño Zuñiga, Lauri Kuosmanen, Leodoro Labrague, Amir Vahedian-azimi, Esther Idehen, Krista Jokiniemi and Marja Hult.

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 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.

By decision of 19 September 2024 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.

The Appointments Committee selected the following top candidates for expert evaluation: Roberto Ariel Abeldaño Zuñiga, Lauri Kuosmanen, Leodoro Labrague, Amir Vahedian-azimi. Expert statements on the eligibility and merits of the person applying for the post were requested from the following persons: Professor Katja Joronen (University of Turku), Professor Elina Haavisto (University of Turku) and Professor Helga Bragadóttir (University of Iceland).

Based on the application documents and the expert statements, the Appointments Committee proposes that the vacancy be filled at Professor level and that PhD Roberto Ariel Abeldaño Zuñiga be appointed to it as from 1 May 2026 (or as agreed) until further notice. The proposal of the Appointments Committee and the application documents are enclosed with this agenda item as annexes.



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According to 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.

Roberto Ariel Abeldaño Zuñiga is not required to give a trial lecture.

Motion

The Faculty Council will discuss the proposed appointment.

Decision

As proposed.



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Record entry 450/01.01.02/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

5

A part-time (50%) post of Professor/Associate Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics, description of the post: 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 and the Institute of Clinical Medicine of the University of Eastern Finland propose that a part-time (50%) post of a Professor/Associate Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics be filled at the institute.

The post will be filled until further notice as from 1 June 2027 at the earliest.

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.

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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 qualification requirements of a professor by the end of the tenure track term.

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 451/01.01.03/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

6

The scope and specifications of the post of Clinical Lecturer in Psychiatics 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:

The duties of the clinical lecturer (Psychiatics) include giving teaching in the field of psychiatics to Bachelor's and Master's degree students of medicine and supervising theses, participating in the planning and development of teaching in the academic subject, in administrative tasks related to teaching and in research activities.

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 and Tenure Track positions.

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



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Decision

As proposed.



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Record entry 419/01.01.03/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

7

The scope and specifications of the post of Clinical Lecturer in Geriatrics that will become vacant at the Faculty: Hearing of the Faculty Council

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

The scope of the post is as follows:

The duties of the Clinical Lecturer (Geriatrics) include giving teaching in geriatrics and gerontology, supervising theses, participating in specialist education in medicine, conducting research in the field, and participating in administrative duties.

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 and Tenure Track positions.

Motion

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



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Decision

As proposed.

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Record entry 348/01.01.03/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

8

The scope and specifications of the posts of Clinical Lecturer in Anaesthesiology and Emergency Care 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 two posts of Clinical Lecturer. The posts will be filled as from 1 August 2026 until further notice.

The scope of the post is as follows:

The duties of the Clinical Lecturer (Anaesthesiology and Emergency Care) include giving teaching in the specialist field of anaesthesiology and emergency care to Bachelor's and Master's degree students medical students and supervising theses, participating in the planning and development of teaching in the academic subject, in administrative tasks related to teaching and in research activities.

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 and Tenure Track positions.



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Motion The Faculty Council will discuss the scope and specifications of the posts of Clinical Lecturer (Anaesthesiology and Emergency Care) that will become vacant at the faculty.

Decision As proposed.



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Record entry 458/01.01.03/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

9

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

The School of Pharmacy of the University of Eastern Finland proposes that four posts of University Lecturer in Nursing Science be filled at the unit as from 1 January 2027 (or as agreed) until further notice. The positions 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:

The duties of the University Lecturer in Nursing Science 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 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 posts of University Lecturer, Nursing Science, that will become vacant at the faculty.

Decision As proposed.

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Record entry 1004/03.01.00/2025

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

10

Proposal to the UEF Board on the student intake of the Faculty of Health Sciences in student admissions 2026–2028

According to section 14(10) of the Universities Act (558/2009), the board of a public university is responsible for deciding on the number of students to be admitted to the university.

In spring 2025, the Board of the University of Eastern Finland confirmed the total annual student intake of the Faculty of Health Sciences to be a maximum of 800 in 2025–2028. The total student intake to be confirmed at the faculty level is not be tied to the faculty's study programmes, but the intake to each study programme will be confirmed annually when the admission criteria or changes to them are approved.

The plans of the Faculty of Health Sciences for new educational initiatives for 2027–2028 require an increase in the total student intake at the faculty level.

The Faculty of Health Sciences proposes to the UEF Board that it approves the total student intake of the faculty to be a maximum of 900 a year in 2026–2028.



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Motion The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences proposes to the UEF Board that the total student intake of the faculty be a maximum of 900 a year in 2026–2028. More detailed student intake to each study programme will be confirmed annually when the admission criteria are approved or modified.

Decision As proposed.

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Record entry No 99/03.00.01/2026

Prepared by

11

Exemption from Regulation 55/2020 for specialist education in Rheumatology

The structure of the specialist education in medicine and dentistry is defined in Decree 56/2015 of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (amended with Decree 55/2020 and Decree 1240/2022). Based on amendment 55/2020 of the Decree, the length of education in non-university hospitals must be at least one year in addition to the nine-month period at a health care centre. At university hospitals, the length of education must be at least one year, except in the case of the training programmes in exercise medicine, health care, occupational health care and general practice. Training arrangements must be provided in a regionally appropriate manner, taking into account the objectives of specialist education and the skills needs and educational opportunities of the service system.

Based on the Decree, the University may grant a special derogation as regards the training period completed in a university hospital or outside a university hospital (except for the training period completed at a health care centre). The faculty decides on the derogation after having heard the regional advisory board. The statement of the regional advisory board steers the university's activities in the organisation of specialist education.

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The derogation decision applies to specialising physicians who are already in training and who are completing their training in accordance with the amendment 55/2020 of the Decree, as well as to specialising physicians who obtain their right to pursue studies during the validity period of the derogation up until graduation.

The specialist field of rheumatology is applying for a three-year derogation from the requirements of Decree 55/2020 as regards the training period at a university hospital for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028. The application concerns the specialisation training carried out at Hospital Nova.

The specialist field proposes that the entire training period at a university hospital can be completed at Hospital Nova, where the specialisation training can be implemented in full. Mote detailed justification can be found in Annex 1 of the application.

At its meeting on 17 March 2026, the Regional Advisory Board issued a favourable statement on granting the derogation as set out in the application. The Advisory Board stated that the derogation should be linked to a professorship in the field. Currently, the Professor of Rheumatology at the University of Eastern Finland and the person in charge of the specialist field work at Hospital Nova.

Motion

The Faculty Council grants a regional derogation for the specialist field of rheumatology from the requirement to complete a training period at a university hospital as referred to in Decree 55/2020 for a period of three years from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028, so that the entire



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training period at a university hospital (specialisation training) can be completed at Hospital Nova.

The derogation will be valid on the condition that the professorship in rheumatology is located at Hospital Nova.

Decision As proposed.

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Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

12

Grading Lic.Med. Pertti Hella'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. Pertti Hella's doctoral dissertation and study "[Schizophrenia and language in institutional interaction: clinical, linguistic, and conversation analytic case studies](#)" was examined publicly on 27 February 2026. Both preliminary examiners, Professor Emeritus Jyrki Korkeila (University of Turku) and Professor Minna Laakso (University of Helsinki) are in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Medicine and propose 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 opponents' statements 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 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. Pertti Hella's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision

As proposed.

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Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

13

Grading Lic.Med. Iina Saimanen'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. Iina Saimanen's doctoral dissertation and study "[Oxidative stress in intra-abdominal surgery](#)" was examined publicly on 6 March 2026. The opponent, Professor Esko Kempainen (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 comments on the statements. The opponent's statement is enclosed with the item as an annex.

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According to section 29 of the Universities Act (24.7.2009/558), a study attainment may be assessed only by those members or deputy members of a multi-member administrative body who have a degree or completed study attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors.

Motion Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades Lic.Med. Iina Saimanen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

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Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences

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Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

14

Grading MSc Anna Makkonen'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 Makkonen's doctoral dissertation and study "[Client orientation in interprofessional cooperation – A framework based on the perspectives of clients and social and healthcare students](#)" was examined publicly on 27 February 2026. The opponent, docent Arja Suikkala (University of Turku) 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 MTh Anna Makkonen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

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Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

15

Grading MSc Marika Orava'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 Marika Orava's doctoral dissertation and study

"Terveystenhoitohenkilöstön liikunta- ja unitutkimus: Suojaako sairaanhoitajan ammatti liikkumattomuudelta ja huonolta unelta?" was examined publicly on 6 March 2026. The opponent, Professor Arto Hautala (University of Jyväskylä) is in favour of the doctoral 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 Marika Orava's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.



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Closing of the meeting

The chair closed the meeting at 15:27.



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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.