

**Minutes**

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences

Meeting No 4/2026

Meeting date 23 April 2026

1 (55)

**Date and time** 23 April 2026 at 14:05 – 15.57

**Place** Me201+Teams

<b>Participants</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Additional information</b>
Members		
Forsberg Markus	Dean, Chair	1-4, 8-25
Leinonen Ville	1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair	1-25
Tohka Jussi	Professor, member	1-25
Haapasalo Annakaisa	Professor, deputy member	
Kauppinen Anu	Professor, member	1-25
Ketolainen Jarkko	Professor, deputy member	
Härkänen Marja	Professor, member	1-25
Välimäki Tarja	Professor, deputy member	
Tuomainen Tomi-Pekka	Professor, member	1-25
Pussinen Pirkko	Professor, deputy member	
Heinäniemi Merja	Professor, member	1-11, 13-25
Kuittinen Outi	Professor, deputy member	
Tampio Janne	Staff, member	
Rauramaa Tuomas	Staff, deputy member	1-2
Lajunen Tatu	Staff, member	1-25
Tirkkonen Tiina	Staff, deputy member	1-25



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Kotikumpu Kari	Staff, member	1-25
Küblbeck Jenni	Staff, deputy member	1-25
Lahtela-Kakkonen Maija	Staff, member	1-5, 7-25
Niemi Inkeri	Staff, deputy member	
Heikkilä Reeta	Staff, member	1-25
Lehtonen Sarka	Staff, deputy member	
Kalenius Nea	Student, member	1-25
Lähteenmäki Eino	Student, deputy member	
Nurmela Veera	Student, member	5-25
Ahvonen Otto	Student, deputy member	
Salokangas Ville	Student, member	1-25
Halonen Kasper	Student, deputy member	
Kuosmanen Aino	Student, member	1-25
Saadi Shadi	Student, deputy member	
Tallbacka Senja	Student, member	1-25
To be named later	Student, deputy member	
Ollikainen-Richards Hanna	Executive Head of Administration, secretary, 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 14.05.

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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 16 April 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. Tuomas Rauramaa did not

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Record entry 1011/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

### 3

#### **The Dean's proposal to the Rector of the University of Eastern Finland on the appointment of MD Noora Neittaanmäki to the post of Associate Professor of Dermatology and Venereology (Tenure Track): Hearing of the Faculty Council**

According to 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, to permanent teaching and research positions compliant with the four-stage research career model, and to Tenure Track positions after hearing the Faculty Council.

The post of Associate Professor of Dermatology and Venereology (Tenure Track) that complies with the faculty's human resources plan is hosted by the Institute of Clinical Medicine at the School of Medicine. The post was advertised through a public notice of vacancy and one person submitted an application by the deadline: MD Noora Neittaanmäki.

A person to be appointed as an Associate Professor in the Tenure Track shall hold a suitable doctoral degree and have good teaching skills. Furthermore, a person to be appointed as an Associate Professor in the Tenure Track shall have the prerequisites for fulfilling the qualification

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requirements of a Professor by the end of the Tenure Track term (UEF University Regulations).

The Dean of the Faculty has invited the following experts to provide statements on the applicants' scientific qualifications for the position of Professor/Associate Professor: Professor Liv Eidsmo (Karolinska Institutet) and Professor Teea Salmi (University of Tampere). Both experts assessed the applicant to be qualified for the post of Associate Professor.

Based on the application documents, interviews and expert statements, the Appointments Committee proposes that the vacant post be filled at Associate Professor level and that MD Noora Neittaanmäki be appointed to it for a fixed term of four years as from 1 May 2026.

No trial lecture will be required.

The proposal of the Admissions Committee, expert statements and the application documents of the person proposed to be appointed to the position are enclosed with this agenda item as appendices.

The criteria, objectives and results to be achieved during the term in order to proceed to the next level of the Tenure Track will be agreed in detail with the appointee to the Associate Professor position when signing the contract of employment.

## Motion

The Faculty Council will discuss the proposed appointment.



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Record entry 1247/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

**4**

**The Dean's proposal to the Rector of the University of Eastern Finland on the appointment of MD Mika Ukkonen to the post of Associate Professor of Surgery (Tenure Track): Hearing of the Faculty Council**

According to 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, to permanent teaching and research positions compliant with the four-stage research career model, and to Tenure Track positions after hearing the Faculty Council.

The post of Associate Professor of Surgery (Tenure Track) that complies with the faculty's human resources plan is hosted by the Institute of Clinical Medicine at the School of Medicine. The post was advertised through a public notice of vacancy and, by the deadline, two (2) applications were received one of which meets the qualification requirements: Mika Ukkonen.

A person to be appointed as an Associate Professor in the Tenure Track shall hold a suitable doctoral degree and have good teaching skills. Furthermore, a person to be appointed as an Associate Professor in the Tenure Track shall have the prerequisites for fulfilling the qualification

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requirements of a Professor by the end of the Tenure Track term (UEF University Regulations).

The Dean of the Faculty has invited Professor Ilkka Helenius (University of Helsinki) and Professor Virve Koljonen (University of Helsinki) as experts to provide statements on the scientific qualifications of the applicants for the post of Professor/Associate Professor. Both experts assessed the applicant to be qualified for the post of Associate Professor.

Based on the application documents, interviews and expert statements, the Appointments Committee proposes that the vacant post be filled at Associate Professor level and that MD Mika Ukkonen be appointed to it for a fixed term of four years as from 1 May 2026.

No trial lecture will be required.

The proposal of the Admissions Committee, expert statements and the application documents of the person proposed to be appointed to the position are enclosed with this agenda item as appendices.

The criteria, objectives and results to be achieved during the term in order to proceed to the next level of the Tenure Track will be agreed in detail with the appointee to the Associate Professor position when signing the contract of employment.

## Motion

The Faculty Council will discuss the proposed appointment.



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Record entry 149/01.01.03/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## 5

### **A proposal on the person to be appointed as University Lecturer, Pharmacy (Biopharmacy): 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 (Biopharmacy) that will be effective until further notice by the School of Pharmacy of the University of Eastern Finland.

Nine applicants applied for the post by the deadline: DSc (Pharmacy) Piia Bartos, DSc (Pharmacy) Feng Deng, PhD Suchetana De Storvik, DSc (Pharmacy) Susanna Forsberg, DSc (Pharmacy) Maria Hytti, DSc (Pharmacy) Joni Järvenpää, DSc (Pharmacy) Tatu Lajunen, DSc (Pharmacy) Riikka Metsämuuronen and DSc (Pharmacy) Kati-Sisko Vellonen.

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 DSc (Pharmacy) Kati-Sisko Vellonen be appointed to the post of University Lecturer (Biopharmacy) as from 1 August 2026 until further notice.

It is stated that DSc (Pharmacy) Kati-Sisko Vellonen meets the qualification requirements of a university lecturer, as referred to in the University Regulations, and the prerequisites laid down in the specifications of the post. CV and list of publications are enclosed with the agenda item as Annexes.

No trial lecture will be required.

### **Motion**

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

### **Decision**

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Record entry 150/01.01.03/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

## 6

### **A proposal on the person to be appointed as University Lecturer, Pharmacy (Pharmaceutical Chemistry): 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 (Pharmaceutical Chemistry) that will be effective until further notice by the School of Pharmacy of the University of Eastern Finland.

Nine applicants applied for the post by the deadline: DSc (Pharmacy) Piia Bartos, PhD Suchetana De Storvik, DSc (Pharmacy) Susanna Forsberg, DSc (Pharmacy) Maria Hytti, DSc (Pharmacy) Joni Järvenpää, DSc (Pharmacy) Riikka Metsämuuronen, PhD Essi Rytönen, PhD Juri Timonen and DSc (Pharmacy) Kati-Sisko Vellonen.

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 DSc (Pharmacy) Joni Järvenpää be appointed to the post of University Lecturer (Pharmaceutical Chemistry) as from 1 August 2026 until further notice.

DSc (Pharmacy) Joni Järvenpää meets the qualification requirements of a university lecturer, as referred to in the University Regulations, and the prerequisites laid down in the specifications of the post. CV and list of publications are enclosed with the agenda item as Annexes.

No trial lecture will be required.

### **Motion**

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

### **Decision**

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Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

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### **A proposal on the person to be appointed as University Lecturer, Pharmacy (Pharmaceutical Technology): 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 (Pharmaceutical Technology) that will be effective until further notice by the School of Pharmacy of the University of Eastern Finland.

14 applicants submitted their application to the post by the deadline: DSc (Pharmacy) Piia Bartos, PhD Suchetana De Storvik, DSc (Pharmacy) Susanna Forsberg, DSc (Pharmacy) Maria Hytti, MSc (Pharmacy) Atte Junnila, DSc (Pharmacy) Joni Järvenpää, PhD Minna Karhinen, DSc (Pharmacy) Tuomas Kilpeläinen, PhD Eric Kissi, DSc (Pharmacy) Tatu Lajunen, DSc (Pharmacy) Jenna Lyytikäinen, DSc (Pharmacy) Riikka Metsämuuronen, DSc (Pharmacy) Sema Tuna Torunoglu and DSc (Pharmacy) Kati-Sisko Vellonen.

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

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 DSc (Pharmacy) Tatu Lajunen be appointed to the post of University Lecturer (Pharmaceutical Technology) as from 1 August 2026 until further notice.

DSc (Pharmacy) Tatu Lajunen meets the qualification requirements of a university lecturer, as referred to in the University Regulations, and the prerequisites laid down in the specifications of the post. CV and list of publications are enclosed with the agenda item as Annexes.

No trial lecture will be required.

### **Motion**

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

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Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

**8**

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

The School of Medicine, the Institute of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition of the University of Eastern Finland proposes that the post of a University Lecturer be filled at the unit as of 1 August 2026 (or as agreed) until further notice. The post is hosted by the Institute of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition of the School of Medicine at the Faculty of Health Sciences on the Kuopio campus.

The scope of the post is as follows:

The duties of the University Lecturer in Health Promotion include giving teaching in basic, intermediate and advanced studies in accordance with the degree requirements in the academic subjects of the unit with the focus on health promotion and public health, supervising Master's theses and giving other study counselling, teaching and supervising in scientific postgraduate and continuous learning studies, conducting research and development in accordance with the strategy of the unit, as well as participating in the administrative tasks, social interaction and international collaboration 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 post of University Lecturer, Health Promotion, that will become vacant at the faculty.

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Record entry 568/01.08.00/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

**9**

**Granting the title of docent in Neurosurgery to MD Terhi Huuskonen**

MD Terhi Huuskonen has proposed that she be awarded the title of docent in Neurosurgery 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.

Where required, a statement will be requested from a minimum of two experts on the scientific qualifications of a person applying for the title of docent. The Docent Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences stated when it addressed MD Terhi Huuskonen's application that no external evaluation procedure is required to determine her scientific qualifications. The Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Eastern Finland has awarded an experimental title of docent in neurosurgery to MD Terhi Huuskonen through an expert procedure, as of 1 July 2020. The reason for the experimental title of docent was the lack of the two years of service after completing the specialist degree in medicine, which is required for a

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docentship in a clinical field. The applicant now fulfils the requirements for practical familiarity for applying for the title of docent in neurosurgery.

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 Docent Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences stated, when it processed the application, that the applicant still 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 university for the title of docent and decides to grant the title of docent in neurosurgery to MD Terhi Huuskonen.

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Record entry 1004/03.01.00/2025

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

**10**

### **Admission criteria for the scientific Licentiate degree for the academic year 2026–2027**

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will make decisions concerning student admission criteria. The administration of the Faculty of Health Sciences has prepared a proposal for the admission criteria for the academic year 2026–2027 (Annex). The admission criteria will take effect on 1 August 2026.

#### **Motion**

The Faculty Council approves the student admission criteria for the scientific Licentiate degree of the Faculty of Health Sciences as proposed and authorises the Vice Dean (Research and Innovation) to make technical changes to the admission criteria.

#### **Decision**



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Record entry 1004/03.01.00/2025

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

**11**

### **Approval of the admission criteria for the doctoral programme of the Faculty of Health Sciences for the academic year 2026- 2027**

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will make decisions concerning student admission criteria. The preparation group of the doctoral programme of the Faculty of Health Sciences has prepared a proposal for the admission criteria for the academic year 2026–2027 (Annex). The admission criteria will take effect on 1 August 2026.

#### **Motion**

The Faculty Council approves the student admission criteria for the doctoral programme of the Faculty of Health Sciences as proposed and authorises the Vice Dean (Research and Innovation) to make technical changes to the admission criteria.

#### **Decision**

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Record entry No 97/03.00.01/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

## 12

### **Confirming amendments to the curriculum for the scientific Licentiate degree**

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will make decisions concerning curricula and degree requirements. According to section 18 of the Education Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, a curriculum is drawn up for each degree programme, which constitutes a skill-based tool for teaching, planning of studies and supervision. The faculty and the department/school shall develop and assess the curriculum regularly. Feedback and statistical data collected on teaching, studies, guidance and degrees shall be utilised in the development.

The curriculum for the scientific Licentiate degree of the Faculty of Health Sciences for 2025–2028 was approved by the Faculty Council on 16 April 2025. The following changes are proposed to be made to the confirmed curriculum for 2026–2028:

- The new person in charge will be Vice Dean (Research and Innovation) Ville Leinonen.
- The ECTS credit limits of the degree will be harmonised to comply with the new doctoral programme (transferable skills studies 5–10 ECTS, studies in the discipline and field of research 20–25 ECTS).



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The updated curriculum is enclosed with this agenda item as an annex.

### **Motion**

The Faculty Council confirms the changes made to the curriculum for the faculty's scientific Licentiate degree as proposed.

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Record entry No 97/03.00.01/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

**13**

**Confirming the curriculum for the doctoral programme of the Faculty of Health Sciences for the academic year 2026- 2027**

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will make decisions concerning curricula and degree requirements. According to section 18 of the Education Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, a curriculum is drawn up for each degree programme, which constitutes a skill-based tool for teaching, planning of studies and supervision. The faculty and the department/school shall develop and assess the curriculum regularly. Feedback and statistical data collected on teaching, studies, guidance and degrees shall be utilised in the development.

The preparation group of the doctoral programme of the Faculty of Health Sciences has prepared a curriculum for the academic year 2026–2027 (Annex). The course descriptions of the courses included in the curriculum for the doctoral programme are enclosed with this agenda item as an annex.

**Motion**

The Faculty Council will confirm the courses of the faculty's postgraduate education and the curriculum for doctoral programme as proposed.



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Record entry No 98/03.00.01/2026

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

### 14

#### **Confirming amendments to the curriculum for the Bachelor's Degree Programme in Human and Planetary Health for the academic years 2026–2029**

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will make decisions concerning curricula and degree requirements. By its decision dated 22 January 2026 (record entry 1970/00.01.01/2020), the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences transferred the approval of changes made to the curriculum for the Bachelor and Master level studies, which fall within its remit, to the Vice Dean (Education). Significant changes are always approved by the Faculty Council.

The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences has approved the Bachelor's Degree Programme in Human and Planetary Health for 2026–2029 at its meeting of 22 January 2026 (Dnro 98/03.00.01/2026). The following changes need to be made to the confirmed curriculum:  
The number of ECTS for the Academic and Working Life Skills module, which is part of the compulsory studies, is changed from 20 ECTS to 20–34 ECTS. This means that the scope of compulsory studies is 20 ECTS for students whose language of education is Finnish or Swedish, and 34 ECTS for students whose language of education is something other than Finnish or Swedish.

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The number of ECTS for the Elective Studies module is changed from 30 ECTS to 16–30 ECTS. This means that students whose language of education is Finnish or Swedish must complete 30 ECTS of optional studies, and students whose language of education is something other than Finnish or Swedish must complete 16 ECTS of optional studies. In addition, four S2 integration courses will be added to the compulsory language studies of students whose language of education is something other than Finnish or Swedish. The changes are presented in more detail in the annex “Curriculum of the Bachelor’s Degree Programme in Human and Planetary Health”.

The above changes will be made to the curriculum because the Human and Planetary Health degree programme is being developed into a functionally bilingual programme. The aim of functionally bilingual degree programmes is to enable international students to acquire sufficient proficiency in Finnish for integration into society and employment in expert positions corresponding to their education. For this reason, the amount of compulsory Finnish language studies of students whose language of education is something other than Finnish or Swedish is increased to meet the goals of functionally bilingual education.

The updated curriculum for the degree programme for the academic years 2026–2029 is enclosed with the agenda item as an annex.

## Motion

The Faculty Council will confirm the changes made to the curriculum for the Bachelor’s Degree Programme in Human and Planetary Health as proposed.



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Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences

Meeting No 4/2026

Meeting date 23 April 2026

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## **Decision**

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Prepared by Annika Koistinen

**15**

### **Grading MSc Maria Gotkiewicz'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 Maria Gotkiewicz's doctoral dissertation and study "[3D confocal microscopy reveals new details of microglia-amyloid plaque interactions in APP/PS1 mouse model of Alzheimer's Disease](#)" was examined publicly on 13 March 2026. The opponent Professor Melissa E. Murray (Mayo Clinic, USA), is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Philosophy 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

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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 Maria Gotkiewicz's doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

**Decision**

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## 16

### Grading MSc Anni Kukkonen'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 Anni Kukkonen's doctoral dissertation and study "[Coffee and caffeine intake during pregnancy – associations with maternal and neonatal health \(Kuopio Birth Cohort\)](#)" was examined publicly on 13 March 2026. The opponent, Professor Mikael Fogelholm (University of Helsinki) 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 statement, the Faculty Council grades MHSc Anni Kukkonen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision**

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### Grading Lic.Med. Jenni Räsänen'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. Jenni Räsänen's doctoral dissertation and study "[The impact of pre- and perioperative factors on the risk of red blood cell transfusions, postoperative atrial fibrillation and short-term mortality in cardiac surgery](#)" was examined publicly on 27 March 2026. The opponent, Professor Antti Vento (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. Jenni Räsänen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

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### **Grading Lic.Med. Johanna Jääskeläinen'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 Jääskeläinen doctoral dissertation and study "[Impact of the Finnish Current Care Guideline on the Diagnosis and Management of Acute Pharyngitis in Children](#)" was examined publicly on 27 March 2026. The opponent, Professor Tuomas Koskela (University of Tampere) 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 Jääskeläinen's doctoral dissertation doctoral dissertation as Pass.

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## 19

### **Grading Lic.Med. Anna-Maria Tolppanen'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. Anna-Maria Tolppanen's doctoral dissertation and study "[PreMortem - End-of-life care in cancer patients](#)" was examined publicly on 21 March 2026. The opponent, Professor Matti Aapro (University of Geneva, Switzerland) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in medicine 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

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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. Anna-Maria Tolppanen's doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

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### Grading Lic.Med. Kati Valtola'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. Kati Valtola's doctoral dissertation and study "[Fabry cardiomyopathy in Finland](#)" was examined publicly on 20 March 2026. The opponent, Professor Markku Savolainen (University of Oulu) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Medicine 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 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. Kati Valtola's doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

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## 21

### Grading Lic.Med. Jussi Tennilä'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. Jussi Tennilä's doctoral dissertation and study "[ADULTHOOD OUTCOMES IN GIRLS WITH PREMATURE ADRENARCHE](#)", was examined publicly on 10 April 2026. The opponent, Associate Professor Jan Idkowiak (University of Birmingham, UK), is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in medicine 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



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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. Jussi Tennilä's doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

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22

### Grading Lic.Med. Ville Paappanen'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. Ville Paappanen's doctoral dissertation and study "[Effectiveness of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Care in Finland](#)" was examined publicly on 10 April 2026. The opponent, Docent Timo Muhonen (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. Ville Paappanen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

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## 23

### Grading MSc Anneli Vauhkonen'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 Anneli Vauhkonen's doctoral dissertation and study "[Occupational well-being of health care educators in Finland and Estonia community-based participatory action research, 2020–2023?](#)" was examined publicly on 27 March 2026. The opponent, Professor Anne Mäkikangas (University of Tampere) 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 Anneli Vauhkonen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

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## 24

### Grading MSc, MB Jouni Kujala'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, MB Jouni Kujala's doctoral dissertation "[Circulating nucleic acids as biomarkers for recurrent breast cancer](#)", was examined publicly on 10 April 2026. The opponent Associate Professor Toni Seppälä (University of Tampere) 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 MSc, MB Jouni Kujala's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

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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.