

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies
Meeting No 3/2026
Meeting date 26 March 2026

1 (28)

Date and time 26 March 2026, 14:00 - 14:59

Place Teams

Participants	Role	Present for items
Members		
Turtiainen Matti	Dean, Chair	1-13
Rissanen Sari	1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair	1-3
Minna Tanskanen	2nd Vice Dean	
Makkonen Teemu	Professor, member	
Lammintakanen Johanna	Professor, deputy member	1-13
Peltola Taru	Professor, member	3-13
Räsänen Tuomas	Professor, deputy member	
Koponen Jonna	Professor, member	
Heilmann Pia	Professor, deputy member	
Castrén Anna-Maija	Professor, member	1-13
Finell Eerika	Professor, deputy member	1-13
Aaltonen Mikko	Professor, member	1-13
Pölönen Ismo	Professor, deputy member	
Tammenlehto Laura	Staff, member	1-13
Muukkonen Matti	Staff, deputy member	1-13
Suonio Mari	Staff, member	1-13
Hirvonen Helena	Staff, deputy member	1-13



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Karhapää Sari-Johanna	Staff, member	1-13
Honkamäki Tuomas	University Lecturer, deputy member	
Parppei Kati	Staff, member	
Halonen Maija	Staff, deputy member	1-13
Kivivirta Ville	Staff, member	1-13
Virkkunen Joni	Staff, deputy member	
Kortelainen Janne	Student, member	3-13
Akiala Matias	Student, deputy member	1-13
Thapa Kshitij	Student, member	1-13
Huotari Timi	Student, deputy member	
Baljashkin Janina	Student, member	
Valolempi Aarni	Student, deputy member	
Ojalehto Päivikki	Student, member	1-13
Eklund Essi	Student, deputy member	1-13
Packalén Joonatan	Student, member	1-13
Huitula Jutta	Student, deputy member	
Junkkarinen Marko	Executive Head of Administration, secretary, preparer	1-13
Other preparers		
Honkanen Annikki	Head of Academic Affairs	1-13
Korhonen Anne	Academic Affairs Specialist	1-13
Paronen Minna	Amanuensis	1-13
Romppanen Jarmo	Academic Affairs Specialist	1-13



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Lunkka Nina

Expert

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Items discussed at the meeting

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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 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. The order of the agenda items changed based on a unanimous decision so that item 7 became item 3.

Record entry No 455/03.00.01/2026

Prepared by Annikki Honkanen

§ 3

The curriculum and student admission criteria for doctoral education for the academic year 2026–2027

The curriculum and student admission criteria for doctoral education for the academic year 2026–2027 have been prepared jointly by the schools and departments and the Research Development Committee. The currently valid curriculum and admission criteria have been amended to take account of, e.g., university-level development work. The main changes have been listed in the Annex and are also marked in red.

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will make decisions concerning curricula and student admission criteria.

Motion The Faculty Council approves the changes to the curriculum and admission criteria to doctoral education for the academic year 2026–2027 as set out in the annex.

Decision As proposed.

Annexes

- 1 Curriculum and admission criteria for doctoral education, 2026-2027

Record entry 83/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annikki Honkanen

§ 4

Grading MSc (Tech.) Minna Heikinheimo's doctoral dissertation in the field of international business and sales management

According to section 36 of the Education Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the dean of the faculty shall appoint at least one opponent, who must be a person outside the University of Eastern Finland and who, at a minimum, is required to hold the title of docent or be a person with equivalent scientific competence.

On 23 February 2026, the Faculty discovered that the opponent was in a part-time (20%) employment relationship with the University of Eastern Finland between 1 January 2026 and 28 February 2026. The situation has arisen because the person in question was appointed as an opponent on 11 November 2025, i.e., before an employment contract was signed with them. The public examination of the doctoral dissertation was organised on 30 January 2026.

The Faculty has decided to request a second statement on the doctoral dissertation in order to ensure the scientifically unbiased evaluation of the doctoral dissertation and to correct the obvious procedural error in the public examination process.

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MSc (Tech.) Minna Heikinheimo's doctoral dissertation and study "Platformization of service sales: transforming value chains and capabilities" was examined publicly on 30 January 2026.

The opponent, Professor Javier Marcos Cuevas (Cranfield School of Management) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in economics and business administration. In the light of the above, Vice Dean Sari Rissanen has appointed Associate Professor Harri Terho (University of Turku) as an additional examiner. Both the opponent and the additional examiner propose that the dissertation be graded as Pass with distinction.

According to section 44 of the Universities Act (558/2009), 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 statements of the opponent, the custos and the additional examiner are enclosed with this agenda item as annexes.

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland (12 December 2023), the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 32 of the Education Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, dissertations are graded on the scale fail - pass - pass with distinction.

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According to section 29 of the Universities Act (558/2009), 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.

Link to the publication: <https://erepo.uef.fi/items/16931aaa-0e82-498d-9940-7522de5c6dfd>.

Motion Based on the statements, the Faculty Council grades MSc (Tech.) Minna Heikinheimo's doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

Decision As proposed.

Annexes

- 2 Opponent's statement (Cuevas)
- 3 Custos' statement (Julkunen)
- 4 Additional examiner's statement (Terho)

Record entry 1135/03.01.00/2025

Prepared by Anne Korhonen

§ 5

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

According to section 14(2)(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.

The Board of the University of Eastern Finland has decided in its meeting of 25 April 2024 that the maximum student intake to the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies for years 2025–2028 is 1,400 per year. With the possible additional study places and new trainings, the number of admitted students will increase in 2026–2028, which is why it is being proposed to the Board that the student intake to the faculty be increased.

The total student intake to be confirmed at faculty level will not be linked to study programmes, but the intake to each programme will be confirmed annually by the faculty council in connection with the admission criteria.

Motion The Faculty Council proposes to the UEF Board that it approves the faculty's student intake to be a total of 1,600 a year in 2026–2028.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 1135/03.01.00/2025

Prepared by Minna Paronen

§ 6

Confirming the curriculum for the Master's degree programme in leadership in the rescue sector for the academic years 2026–2028

The Department of Health and Social Management has prepared a curriculum for the Master's degree programme in leadership in the rescue sector, which will begin on 1 August 2026, for the academic years 2026–2028.

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will make decisions concerning curricula and student admission criteria.

The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies decided at its meeting of 22 January 2026 to transfer the Faculty Council's decision-making power in matters related to curricula.

Motion The Faculty Council approves the curriculum for the Master's degree programme in leadership in the rescue sector for the academic years 2026–2028 as set out in the annex.

Decision As proposed.

Annexes



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- 5 Master's degree programme in leadership in the rescue sector
for 2026–2028

Record entry No 386/03.00.01/2025

Prepared by Jarmo Romppanen

§ 7

Approval of the admission criteria for the Early admission call to the international Master's degree programmes of the Business School for autumn 2026

The Business School has prepared admission criteria for the Early admission call to the international Master's degree programmes for autumn 2026. Early admission is now implemented for the second time, and the call aims, among others, to ease the processing of the vast number of applications submitted to the Business School's study programmes in the first joint application. The Early Admission call is open from 1 to 15 October 2026.

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will make decisions concerning curricula and student admission criteria.

The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies decided at its meeting of 22 January 2026 to delegate the Faculty Council's decision-making power in matters related to student admission criteria.

Motion

The Faculty Council approves the student admission criteria for the Early admission call to the international Master's programmes of the Business School for autumn 2026 as set out in the annex.



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Decision As proposed.

Annexes

- 6 Admission criteria, Early admission 2026, international Master's programmes of the Business School

Record entry 1399/01.01.02/2022

Prepared by Marko Junkkarinen

§ 8

The Dean's proposal to appoint PhD Jong Kon Chin Simcha to the post of Professor (10%) in Neuro-Impact and Innovation, Business School: 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 position of Professor, Neuro-Impact and Innovation, is hosted by the Business School. The position is filled for a fixed-term and is held by PhD Jong Kon Chin Simcha from 1 June 2021 to 30 April 2026.

In 2022, expert statements were requested on the qualifications and merits of Jong Kon Chin Simcha for the post of Professor, Neuro-Impact and Innovation, from Professor Andrea M. Herrmann and Professor George Hendrikse. Expert statements are enclosed with this agenda item as annexes.

The Business School has proposed that Jong Kon Chin Simcha continue in the post and be appointed to the fixed-term post of Professor, Neuro-Impact and Innovation, for the period 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2028. The school's justifications are enclosed as an annex.

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Jong Kon Chin Simcha was found to be qualified for the post of professor based on the application documents and expert statements when he was first appointed to it.

Based on the previous assessment and determination of qualifications and merits, it is proposed that Jong Kon Chin Simcha be appointed to the fixed-term post of Professor, Neuro-Impact and Innovation, for the period 1 May 2026 – 30 April 2028.

The Dean's proposal to the Rector is that Jong Kon Chin Simcha be appointed to the post of Professor, Neuro-Impact and Innovation, for the period 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2028. The post is filled for a fixed-term due to the supervision of doctoral students in the Horizon project and participation in RC collaboration. The part-time percentage of the post is 10%.

Jong Kon Chin Simcha meets the qualification requirements of a professor referred to in section 31 of the UEF University Regulations. He is scientifically qualified for the post of Professor, Neuro-Impact and Innovation, and has good teaching skills.

Motion

The Dean will hear the Faculty Council on the proposal to appoint PhD Jong Kon Chin Simcha to the post of Professor, Neuro-Impact and Innovation, for the period 1 May 2026 – 30 April 2028.



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Decision As proposed.

Annexes

- 7 Application documents of Jong Kon Chin Simcha
- 8 The school's justifications, Jong Kon Chin Simcha
- 9 Expert statements (Andrea M. Herrmann, George Hendrikse)

Record entry 165/01.01.02/2026

Prepared by Marko Junkkarinen

§ 9

The scope and specifications of the post: Associate Professor (Tenure Track), Digital Marketing and Data Analytics, Business School

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

The post of Associate Professor (Tenure Track), Digital Marketing and Data Analytics, is to be filled for a fixed-term of four (4) years as from 1 July 2026 onwards. The intention is to appoint D.Sc. Heli Hallikainen to the post through direct recruitment after evaluation. Heli Hallikainen. The post involves advancement to the next level of the Tenure Track.

The Appointments Committee of the post is: Professor Saara Julkunen (Chair), Professor Jonna Koponen, Professor Jouni Pykäläinen (LUMET), Dean Matti Turtiainen, Executive Head of Administration Marko Junkkarinen and HR Specialist Tuula Ranne.

Motion The Faculty Council will address the scope and specifications of the post.

Decision As proposed.

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- 10 Description of the post (Hallikainen)
- 11 Memo (Hallikainen)

Record entry 1532/01.01.02/2025

Prepared by Marko Junkkarinen

§ 10

The scope and specifications of the post: Assistant Professor / Associate Professor (Tenure Track), Physical Geography, Department of Geographical and Historical Studies

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

The position of Assistant Professor/Associate Professor (Tenure Track) is intended to be filled starting on 1 January 2027 or as agreed for a fixed term of four years.

The Appointments Committee of the post is: University Lecturer Pieter Dhondt, University Lecturer Sonja Kivinen, Professor Timo Kumpula, Professor Lasse Lehtonen, University Lecturer Minna Tanskanen, Dean Matti Turtiainen, Executive Head of Administration Marko Junkkarinen and HR Specialist Tuula Ranne.

Motion The Faculty Council will address the scope and specifications of the post.

Decision As proposed.



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Description of the post, Physical Geography

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§ 11

For information

Expert statements of Professor Outi Kansten, Professor Reima Suomi and Professor John Mantas on the qualifications and merits of MD, PhD Hanna Kuusisto for the post of Professor (20%), Health and Human Services Informatics, especially client and patient safety, as from 1 March 2026 until further notice (record entry 734/01.01.02/2025), which the Faculty Council discussed at its meeting of 25 August 2025, and a memorandum.

By the decision of the Chair of the Appointments Committee, Hanna Kuusisto has been exempted from the requirement to give a trial lecture. On the basis of the teaching portfolio, Kuusisto has been found to meet the requirements of the UEF University Regulations (section 31).

Expert statements of Jacques Bulchand-Gidumal and Nina Prebensen on the qualifications and merits of PhD Faizan Ali for the post of Professor (20%), Marketing, especially digital services, for a fixed term of three years as from 1 April 2026 or as agreed (record entry 1055/01.01.02/2025), which the Faculty Council discussed at its meeting of 27 October 2025, and a memorandum.

By the decision of the Chair of the Appointments Committee, Faizan Ali has been exempted from the requirement to give a trial lecture. On the

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basis of the teaching portfolio, Faizan Ali has been found to meet the requirements of the UEF University Regulations (section 31).

Expert statements of Professor Elske Ammenwerth and Professor Jarmo Reponen on the qualifications and merits of PhD Patricia C. Dykes for the post of Professor (20%), Health and Human Services Informatics, especially clinical informatics, for a fixed term of three years as from 1 April 2026 or as agreed (record entry 880/01.01.02/2025), which the Faculty Council discussed at its meeting of 24 November 2025, and a memorandum.

By the decision of the Chair of the Appointments Committee, Patricia Dykes has been exempted from the requirement to give a trial lecture. On the basis of the teaching portfolio, Patricia Dykes has been found to meet the requirements of the UEF University Regulations (section 31).

Expert statements of Professor Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary and Professor Eiki Berg on the qualifications and merits of PhD Alexander Diener for the post of Professor, Critical Border Studies, as from 1 June 2026 or as agreed (record entry 1308/01.01.02/2025), which was discussed by the Faculty Council at its meeting of 15 December 2025, and a memorandum.

By the decision of the Chair of the Appointments Committee, Alexander Diener has been exempted from the requirement to give a trial lecture. On the basis of the teaching portfolio, Alexander Diener has been found to meet the requirements of the UEF University Regulations (section 31).

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Degrees and public examinations at the Faculty on 16 March 2026 (annex).

Topical faculty matters.

Motion Marked for information.

Decision As proposed.

Annexes

- 13 Expert statements of Professor Outi Kansten, Professor Reima Suomi and Professor John Mantas (MD, PhD Hanna Kuusisto) and a memorandum
- 14 Expert statements of Professor Jacques Bulchand-Gidumal and Professor Nina Prebensen (PhD Faizan Ali) and a memorandum
- 15 Expert statements of Professor Elske Ammenwerth and Professor Jarmo Reponen (PhD Patricia C. Dykes) and a memorandum
- 16 Expert statements of Professor Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary and Professor Eiki Berg (PhD Alexander Diener) and a memorandum
- 17 Degrees completed on 16 March 2026
- 18 Doctoral dissertations on 16 March 2026



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Closing of the meeting

The chair closed the meeting at 14:59.



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Record entry No 130/00.03.05/2026

Prepared by

§ 13

Translation of the agenda/minutes

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

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19 Translation of the agenda