

Agenda

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and
Technology
Meeting No 5/2026
Meeting date 26 May 2026

1 (29)

Date and time 26 May 2026, 13:00 – 15:00

Place Teams

Participants	Role	Additional information
Members		
Lehtinen Kari	Dean, Chair	
Hauta-Kasari Markku	1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair	
Peltola Heli	2nd Vice Dean	
Kolehmainen Ville	Professor, member	
Jänis Janne	Professor, deputy member	
Lähde Anna	Professor, member	
Roussey Matthieu	Professor, deputy member	
Tuittila Eeva-Stiina	Professor, member	
Toivanen Pekka	Professor, deputy member	
Vauhkonen Jari	Professor, member	
Berninger Frank	Professor, deputy member	
Tedre Matti	Professor, member	
Virtanen Jani	Professor, deputy member	
Kainulainen Samu	Staff, member	
Mertano Heta	Staff, deputy member	
Kopra Juho	Staff, member	
Mikkonen Santtu	Staff, deputy member	
Mäkelä Janne	Staff, member	



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Kumlin Timo	Staff, deputy member
Miettinen Tuire	Staff, member
Vainikainen Hanne	Staff, deputy member
Leinonen Risto	Staff, member
Vartiainen Paavo	Staff, deputy member
Kitunen Kielo	Student, member
Heikkinen Wilma	Student, member
Airaksinen Johannes	Student, member
Miettinen Mikko	Student, member
Palkovuori Teemu	Student, member
Kannan Bharath	Student, deputy member
Afzaal Muhammad Shahwaiz	Student, deputy member
Hirvonen Arja	Executive Head of Administration, secretary, preparer

Other preparers

Merimaa-Piirainen Maarit Head of Academic Affairs

Riikka Levänen

Niina Laatikainen

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Items to be discussed at the meeting

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1

Opening of the meeting

The chair will open the meeting.

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2

Legitimacy and presence of a quorum

In accordance with the UEF University Regulations, meeting notices of a multi-member administrative body must be sent at least seven days prior to the meeting, unless the administrative body has decided otherwise.

The meeting notice was sent on 19 May 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 via Teams.

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

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Record entry 439/01.08.00/2026

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

3

Granting the title of docent to PhD Minna Husso in the field of Medical Imaging Techniques

PhD Minna Husso has applied for the title of docent in the field of Medical Imaging Techniques at the Department of Technical Physics of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology of the University of Eastern Finland. PhD Husso's application and related attachments are enclosed with the agenda item as annexes.

In accordance with section 89 of the Universities Act 558/2009, the university may award the title of docent upon application to a person who has comprehensive knowledge of his or her own field, a capacity for independent research or artistic work demonstrated through publications or in some other manner, and good teaching skills.

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

The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology has, by decision of 18 March 2026, appointed Assistant Professor Hanna Renvall (Aalto University, Department of Neuroscience and Biomedical

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Engineering) and Docent Eveliina Lammentausta (Oulu University Hospital) to provide expert statements on the scientific qualifications of PhD Minna Husso in order to be awarded the title of docent in the field of Medical Imaging Techniques. The experts have stated that PhD Minna Husso is scientifically qualified in the field that her title of docent application concerns. The statements of the experts are enclosed with this agenda item as annexes.

A person to be awarded the title of docent is required to have good teaching skills (Universities Act 558/2009). As a rule, good teaching skills are assessed on the basis of application documents and, if this cannot be verified on the basis of merits, the Dean may decide that a trial lecture be required. By a decision of 18 March 2026, the Dean has exempted PhD Minna Husso from the requirement to give a trial lecture and has determined her teaching merits based on the application documents.

Motion

The Faculty Council states that PhD Minna Husso meets the criteria set out in the Universities Act for the title of docent and grants her the title of docent at the University of Eastern Finland in the field of Medical Imaging Techniques as of 1 June 2026.

Decision

Annexes

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|---------|---|
| Annex 1 | PhD Minna Husso's application |
| Annex 2 | Expert statements, Renvall and Lammentausta |

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Record entry 430/01.08.00/2026

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

4

Granting the title of docent to PhD Aapo Ristaniemi in the field of Medical Technology, especially Tissue Biomechanics

PhD Aapo Ristaniemi has applied for the title of docent in the field of Medical technology, especially tissue biomechanics (Medical Technology, especially Tissue Biomechanics) at the Department of Technical Physics of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology of the University of Eastern Finland. PhD Ristaniemi's application and related attachments are enclosed with the agenda item as annexes.

In accordance with section 89 of the Universities Act 558/2009, the university may award the title of docent upon application to a person who has comprehensive knowledge of his or her own field, a capacity for independent research or artistic work demonstrated through publications or in some other manner, and good teaching skills.

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

The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology has, by decision of 16 March 2026, appointed Professor Mikko Kanerva (Faculty of

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Engineering and Natural Sciences, Materials Science and Environmental Engineering, Tampere University) and Program Leader Biomedical Development, PhD Peter Varga (AO Research Institute, Davos) to provide their expert statements on the scientific qualifications of PhD Aapo Ristaniemi in order to be awarded the title of docent in the field of Medical Technology, especially Tissue Biomechanics. The experts have stated that PhD Aapo Ristaniemi is scientifically qualified in the field that his title of docent application concerns. The statements of the experts are enclosed with this agenda item as annexes.

A person to be awarded the title of docent is required to have good teaching skills (Universities Act 558/2009). For the purpose of assessing the teaching skills of PhD Aapo Ristaniemi, the Department of Applied Physics invited an evaluation team that met on 12 May 2026 to hear Ristaniemi's trial lecture titled "Medical Technology, especially Tissue Biomechanics". The evaluation team graded Ristaniemi's trial lecture as "good". The memorandum of the evaluation team is enclosed with this agenda item as an annex.

Motion

The Faculty Council states that PhD Aapo Ristaniemi meets the criteria set out in the Universities Act for the title of docent and grants him the title of docent at the University of Eastern Finland in the field of Medical Technology, especially Tissue Biomechanics as of 1 June 2026.

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| Annex 3 | Application by Aapo Ristaniemi |
| Annex 4 | Expert statements, Kanerva and Varga |
| Annex 5 | Memorandum of the evaluation team on the trial lecture |

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Record entry 685/01.01.03/2026

Prepared by Arja Hirvonen

5

The scope and specifications of the post of University Lecturer in Occupational Hygiene that will become vacant at the Faculty. Hearing of the Faculty Council

In accordance with the human resources planning of the Faculty and the Department of Environmental and Biological Sciences, the aim is to open a call for the post of University Lecturer in Occupational Hygiene.

The description of the post is as follows:

The field of teaching and research of the research-oriented post of University Lecturer is Occupational Hygiene. The duties of the University Lecturer include basic and intermediate level teaching in occupational hygiene in Finnish and Master's level teaching in English aimed at Finnish and international students. The University Lecturer is responsible for developing teaching in their field and for planning and implementing teaching in accordance with the curriculum. The University Lecturer is also responsible for the supervision of Bachelor's and Master's theses and doctoral dissertations in their field of teaching and research. The University Lecturer will participate in the ideation, preparation and implementation of research projects and will publish research results in international peer-reviewed series. The University Lecturer will also apply for external research funding and lead a research team. The University

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Lecturer assesses and develops education in their field, taking account of the requirements of international occupational hygiene education.

The post will be hosted by the Department of Environmental and Biological Sciences at the Faculty of Science, Forestry, and Technology on the Kuopio campus. In this post, teaching is provided in Finnish and English.

According to section 11 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will discuss proposals regarding the scope and specifications of posts that comply with the four-stage career model of the faculty's permanent and Tenure Track positions.

Motion

The Faculty Council will discuss the scope and specifications of the post of University Lecturer in Occupational Hygiene that will become vacant at the faculty.

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Record entry 81/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Niina Laatikainen

6

Grading MSc (Agr. & For.) Philip Chambers's doctoral dissertation in the field of Forestry

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

MSc (Agr. & For.) Philip Chambers's doctoral dissertation and study [Gamified data collection for participative forest planning](#) was publicly examined on 8 May 2026. The opponent, Professor Markus Holopainen (Department of Forest Sciences, University of Helsinki) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Agriculture and Forestry and proposes the grade Pass.

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

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Record entry 81/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Niina Laatikainen

7

Grading MSc Reinis Cimdins's doctoral dissertation in the field of Forestry

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

MSc Reinis Cimdins's doctoral dissertation and study [Boreal forest structural complexity assessments with laser scanning](#) was examined publicly on 16 April 2026. The opponent, Professor Ruben Valbuena (Division of Forest Remote Sensing, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Agriculture and Forestry and proposes the grade Pass.

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



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

Motion

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

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Annexes

Annex 7 Opponent's statement, Ruben Valbuena



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Record entry 81/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Niina Laatikainen

8

Grading MSc (Agr. & For.) Olivia Kuuri-Riutta's doctoral dissertation in the field of Forestry

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

MSc (Agr. & For.) Olivia Kuuri-Riutta's doctoral dissertation and study [Versatile responses of testate amoebae and oxygenic photoautotrophic microbes to drying in boreal peatlands](#) was examined publicly on 24 April 2026. The opponent Professor Nathan Basiliko (Environmental Laboratory, Lakehead University, Canada) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Agriculture and Forestry and proposes the grade Pass with distinction. The preliminary examiners of the dissertation, Professor Robert Booth (Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, Lehigh University, USA) and Principal Scientist, Docent Jenni Hultman (Natural Resources Institute Finland) agree with the opponent on the grade proposal.

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

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examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the statements of the opponent and the preliminary examiners, which are enclosed with this agenda item as appendices.

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 (Agr. & For.) Olivia Kuuri-Riutta's doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

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| Annex 8 | Opponent's statement, Nathan Basiliko |
| Annex 9 | Preliminary examiner's opinion on the proposed grade,
Jenni Hultman |
| Annex 10 | Preliminary examiner's opinion on the proposed grade,
Robert Booth |

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Record entry 81/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Niina Laatikainen

9

Grading MSc Marko Ylönen's doctoral dissertation in the field of Biology

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

MSc Marko Ylönen's doctoral dissertation and study [Metals relevant in nuclear fuel cycle in sediments of boreal lakes: Distribution, bioavailability, and remediation](#) was examined publicly on 17 April 2026. The opponent, Principal Scientist Matti Leppänen (Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Philosophy and proposes the grade Pass.

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

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Record entry 701/03.01.00/2026

Prepared by Maarit Merimaa-Piirainen

10

Approval of the consideration of the English-language matriculation examination in certificate-based admissions as from 2029

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

As from autumn 2028, the matriculation examination may be taken in Finnish, Swedish or English (Act on the Matriculation Examination 502/2019). The structure of the examination is the same in all languages. The English-language examination requires that the person has completed the Finnish as a second language (S2) or Swedish as a second language (R2) test. The test is determined by the language of instruction in upper secondary education. The English-language matriculation examinations implemented as translations, i.e., the content is the same in all languages.

Motion

In accordance with the Act on the Organisation of the Matriculation Examination (502/2019), English-language matriculation examinations will, as from 2029, be observed in the certificate-based admissions of universities in the same way as corresponding matriculation examinations completed in Finnish or Swedish.

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Record entry 701/03.01.00/2026

Prepared by Maarit Merimaa-Piirainen

11

Approval of the admission criteria for the separate admissions to the open university route for 2026

According to section 9(4), subsection 4 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will make decisions concerning curricula, degree requirements and student admission criteria.

The University of Eastern Finland will organise separate admissions to the open university route on 31 August – 10 September 2026.

The admission criteria for the separate admissions to the open university route have been prepared for the following programmes:

- Environmental and Biological Sciences (Biology, Joensuu)
- Environmental and Biological Sciences (Environmental Science, Kuopio)
- Forestry (Joensuu)

Motion

The Faculty Council approves the admission criteria as set out in the annexes and authorises the Vice Dean for Education to make any technical changes to the admission criteria.



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| Annex 12 | Admission criteria, Environmental and Biological Sciences (Biology), Joensuu |
| Annex 13 | Admission criteria, Environmental and Biological Sciences Kuopio |
| Annex 14 | Admission criteria, Forestry |

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Record entry No 699/03.00.01/2026

Prepared by Maarit Merimaa-Piirainen

12

The new pharmaceutical engineering education

According to section 9 of the UEF University Regulations, Faculty Council shall decide, within the scope of the faculty's educational responsibility, on the establishment and discontinuation of major subjects.

The Department of Applied Physics of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology has proposed that a new degree programme in the field of technology be launched in cooperation with the School of Pharmacy of the Faculty of Health Sciences. The name of the programme is Pharmaceutical Engineering and it is taught in Finnish. Students are admitted to the Bachelor of Science (Technology) and Master of Science (Technology) degree programmes (3+2 years).

The degree programme in Pharmaceutical Engineering is included in the DIA joint admissions. The description of the degree programme and preliminary degree structure are enclosed with this agenda item as annexes.

Motion

The Faculty Council decides to establish the major subject of Pharmaceutical Engineering, taught in Finnish, as part of the



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undergraduate education offered, and to start the degree programme on
1 August 2027

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| Annex 15 | Master's Degree Programme in Pharmaceutical
Engineering at the University of Eastern Finland |
| Annex 16 | Pharmaceutical engineering - degree structure |

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For information

Statistics on the faculty's Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees on 30
April 2026 (Annex).

Topical faculty matters.

Motion Marked for information.

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Annex 17

Degree Statistics 30 April 2026



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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.