



UNIVERSITY OF  
EASTERN FINLAND

## Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and  
Business Studies

Meeting No 5/2026

Meeting date 21 May 2026

1 (26)

**Date and time** 21 May 2026, 14:00 - 14:48

**Place** Teams

<b>Participants</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Present for items</b>
Members		
Turtiainen Matti	Dean, Chair	1-13
Rissanen Sari	1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair	
Minna Tanskanen	2nd Vice Dean	
Makkonen Teemu	Professor, member	1-13
Lammintakanen Johanna	Professor, deputy member	
Peltola Taru	Professor, member	1-13
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	
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	1-13
Halonen Maija	Staff, deputy member	
Kivivirta Ville	Staff, member	1-13
Virkkunen Joni	Staff, deputy member	
Kortelainen Janne	Student, member	1-13
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	1-13
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	
Romppanen Jarmo	Academic Affairs Specialist	



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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 13 May 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 was changed so that the supplementary item was addressed after item 9.

Record entry 83/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annikki Honkanen

§ 3

### **Grading LicSocSc Salme Kallinen's doctoral dissertation in the field of Social Work**

LicSocSc Salme Kallinen's doctoral dissertation and study

"Aikuissosiaalityön asiakasdokumentaatio sosiaalityön itseymmärryksen kuvana" was examined publicly on 24 April 2026. The opponent, Docent, DSSc Jari Lindh (University of Lapland) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Social Sciences and proposes the grade Pass.

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 statement. The statements of the opponent and the custos 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 study:

<https://erepo.uef.fi/items/0358fb30-11c5-46d9-af8a-9cddb14cca2c>

**Motion** Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades LicSocSc Salme Kallinen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision** As proposed.

### Annexes

- 1 Opponent's statement\_(Lindh)
- 2 Custos' statement (Toikko)

Record entry 1135/03.01.00/2025

Prepared by Anne Korhonen

§ 4

**Considering the English-language matriculation examination in certificate-based admissions as from 2029**

According to section 9.4(6) of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will make decisions concerning curricula and 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.

**Decision** As proposed.

Record entry 5875/01.08.00/2024

Prepared by Marko Junkkarinen

§ 5

### **Granting the title of docent to PhD Ahjond Garmestani**

PhD Ahjond Garmestani has applied for the title of docent in Law, especially Environmental Law at the University of Eastern Finland. The application for the title of docent was initiated on 30 September 2024 at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies of the University of Eastern Finland.

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

The Law School has considered the title of docent applied for by PhD Ahjond Garmestani to be purposeful for the teaching and research of the School based on the following grounds: "Ahjond Garmestani is one of the most cited scholars in environmental law globally. He is a close partner of the School and is, for example, a member of the steering group of the ongoing STN/RELIEF project. He has taught the theoretical starting points of environmental law, e.g., at the Utrecht University in the Netherlands, and is interested in teaching at UEF as well."

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The Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies decided to invite (19 December 2024) Professor Maria Pettersson (Luleå University of Technology, Sweden), and Professor Holly Doremus (University of California, Berkeley) as experts to provide statements on the scientific qualifications of PhD Garmestani for the title of docent in Law, especially Environmental Law. Professor Doremus did not submit her opinion despite repeated requests, so on 25 February 2026 the Dean invited a third expert, Professor Josephine van Zeben (European University Institute), to provide a statement. Both experts (Pettersson and van Zeben) are in favour of awarding the title of docent to Garmestani.

A person to be awarded the title of docent is required to have good teaching skills (Universities Act 558/2009). The Dean may exempt the applicant from the requirement to give a trial lecture if the teaching merits can be verified in some other manner in accordance with the faculty's instructions on awarding the title of docent. By a decision of 21 April 2026, the Dean has exempted Garmestani from the requirement to give a trial lecture and has determined his teaching merits based on the application documents.

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

The applicant meets the qualification requirements specified in section 89 of the Universities Act and the criteria set out in the docentship guidelines



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of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies for the title of  
docent.

### **Motion**

The Faculty Council states that PhD Ahjond Garmestani meets the criteria set for the title of docent in the Universities Act and awards the title of docent in Law, especially Environmental Law to Garmestani at the University of Eastern Finland.

### **Decision**

As proposed.

### Annexes

- 3 Garmestani's CV, list of publications, and teaching and research
- 4 Expert statements (Pettersson and van Zeben)

Record entry 1508/01.08.00/2025

Prepared by Marko Junkkarinen

§ 6

### **Granting the title of docent to LLD Juhana Riekkinen**

LLD Juhana Riekkinen has applied for the title of docent in Law, especially Procedural Law, at the University of Eastern Finland. The application for the title of docent was initiated on 15 December 2025 at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies of the University of Eastern Finland.

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

The Law School has considered the title of docent applied for by LLD Juhana Riekkinen to be purposeful for the teaching and research of the School based on the following grounds: "Riekkinen is a key specialist in procedural law, and his expertise also extends significantly to legal informatics. His expertise at the interface of procedural law and legal informatics would bring to the School expertise that is not currently available to the same extent, and would therefore strengthen the teaching offered and the research conducted by the School in these fields. Riekkinen has international networks and international publication activities, and he has the prerequisites to act as an active research partner

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in the department's projects. The title of docent would create a natural framework for goal-oriented teaching and research cooperation with the School and strengthen the research community, especially in the areas of procedural law and legal informatics."

The Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies decided to invite (16 March 2026) Professor Laura Ervo (University of Helsinki) and LLD Antti Tapanila (Pirkanmaa District Court) as experts to provide their statements on the scientific qualifications of LLD Juhana Riekkinen for the title of docent in Law, especially Procedural Law. Both experts are in favour of awarding the title of docent to Riekkinen.

A person to be awarded the title of docent is required to have good teaching skills (Universities Act 558/2009). The Dean may exempt the applicant from the requirement to give a trial lecture if the teaching merits can be verified in some other manner in accordance with the faculty's instructions on awarding the title of docent. By a decision of 8 May 2026, the Dean has exempted Riekkinen from the requirement to give a trial lecture and has determined his teaching merits based on the application documents.

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



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The applicant meets the qualification requirements specified in section 89 of the Universities Act and the criteria set out in the docentship guidelines of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies for the title of docent.

### **Motion**

The Faculty Council states that LLD Juhana Riekkinen meets the criteria set for the title of docent in the Universities Act and awards the title of docent in Law, especially Environmental Law to Riekkinen at the University of Eastern Finland.

### **Decision**

As proposed.

### Annexes

5 Riekkinen's CV, teaching portfolio and list of publications

6 Expert statements (Ervo and Tapanila)

Record entry 605/01.01.02/2026

Prepared by Marko Junkkarinen

§ 7

**The scope and specifications of the post: Associate Professor/Assistant Professor (Tenure Track), Law, especially European Security**

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 specifications of the following post are enclosed as an annex:  
Assistant Professor/Associate Professor (Tenure Track), Law, especially European Security

The post 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 members of the Appointments Committee are: Professor Seita Vesa, Chair, Professor Kaisa Huhta, Associate Professor Heikki Kallio, Associate Professor Sanna Mustasaari, Professor Ismo Pölönen, Dean Matti Turtiainen, Executive Head of Administration Marko Junkkarinen / Senior HR Specialist Tuula Ranne, Secretary.



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

**Decision**    As proposed.

Annexes

7            Description of the post

Record entry 680/01.01.03/2026

Prepared by Marko Junkkarinen

§ 8

**The scope and specifications of the post: University lecturer, Social Law, Department of Social Sciences**

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 specifications of the following post are enclosed as an annex:

University Lecturer, Social Law. The post is intended to be filled with an open-ended contract as from 1 September 2026.

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

**Decision** As proposed.

Annexes

8 Specifications of the post  
University Lecturer, Social Law, Department of Social Sciences



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Record entry 680/01.01.03/2026

Prepared by Marko Junkkarinen

§ 9

### **The scope and specifications of the post: University Lecturer, Welfare Law, Law 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 specifications of the following post are enclosed as an annex:

University Lecturer, Welfare Law. The post is intended to be filled with an open-ended contract as from 1 September 2026.

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

**Decision** As proposed with minor clarifications to the specifications of the post, which the Dean will discuss with the Head of School.

Annexes

- 9 Specifications of the post  
University Lecturer, Welfare Law, Law School



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Record entry 83/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annikki Honkanen

§ 10

### **Grading MSc (Econ. & Bus.Adm.) Ilkka Heinänen's doctoral dissertation in the field of History**

MSc (Econ. & Bus.Adm.) Ilkka Heinänen's doctoral dissertation and study "*SAVON RUOTSINKIELINEN SÄÄTYLÄISTÖ 1721-1865 - säätykierto, avioliitto- ja kummikäytännöt*" was examined publicly on 8 May 2026. The opponent, Docent Tiina Miettinen (University of Tampere) 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 (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 statement. The statements of the opponent and the custos 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/20e1ac3a-ca1f-455d-85e7-d08f025abfc3> .

**Motion** Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MSc (Econ. & Bus.Adm.) Ilkka Heinänen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision** As proposed.

### Annexes

- |    |                                  |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 10 | Opponent's statement (Miettinen) |
| 11 | Custos's statement (Katajala)    |

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### For information

Expert statements of Professor Mianna Meskus and Martyn Pickersgill on the qualifications and merits of PhD Ayo Wahlberg for the post of Professor (15 %), Sociology, especially biotechnicality of care, as from 1 August 2026 or as agreed for a three-year term (reference number 84/01.01.02/2026), which was addressed by the Faculty Council at its meeting of 26 February 2026, and a memorandum.

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

Discontinuation of the filling of a post: Associate Professor (Tenure Track), Sustainable Consumer Behaviour, dnro 282/01.01.02/2026.

Degrees and public examinations at the Faculty on 11 May 2026 (annex).

Topical faculty matters.

### Motion

Marked for information.



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**Decision** As proposed.

## Annexes

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|----|---|
| 12 | Expert statements of Professor Mianna Meskus and Professor Martyn Pickersgill (PhD Wahlberg) and memorandum |
| 13 | Degrees completed on 11 May 2026  |
| 14 | Doctoral dissertations on 11 May 2026   |



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### **Closing of the meeting**

The chair closed the meeting at 14:48.



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§ 13

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

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

Annexes

15 Translation of the agenda 21 May 2026