



## Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences  
Meeting No 5/2026  
Meeting date 27 May 2026

**Date and time** 27 May 2026 at 14:00 -

**Place** ME201 + Teams

<b>Participants</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Present for items</b>
Members		
Forsberg Markus	Dean, Chair	1-27
Leinonen Ville	1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair	3-27
Tohka Jussi	Professor, member	1-7,9-27
Haapasalo Annakaisa	Professor, deputy member	1-9
Kauppinen Anu	Professor, member	1-27
Ketolainen Jarkko	Professor, deputy member	
Härkänen Marja	Professor, member	1-27
Välimäki Tarja	Professor, deputy member	
Tuomainen Tomi-Pekka	Professor, member	1-27
Pussinen Pirkko	Professor, deputy member	
Heinäniemi Merja	Professor, member	1-27
Kuittinen Outi	Professor, deputy member	
Tampio Janne	Staff, member	
Rauramaa Tuomas	Staff, deputy member	1-27
Lajunen Tatu	Staff, member	1-12, 15-27
Tirkkonen Tiina	Staff, deputy member	
Kotikumpu Kari	Staff, member	



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Küblbeck Jenni	Staff, deputy member	
Lahtela-Kakkonen Maija	Staff, member	1-14
Niemi Inkeri	Staff, deputy member	1-27
Heikkilä Reeta	Staff, member	1-27
Lehtonen Sarka	Staff, deputy member	
Kalenius Nea	Student, member	
Lähteenmäki Eino	Student, deputy member	
Nurmela Veera	Student, member	1-15, 17-27
Ahvonen Otto	Student, deputy member	
Salokangas Ville	Student, member	
Halonen Kasper	Student, deputy member	
Kuosmanen Aino	Student, member	1-27
Saadi Shadi	Student, deputy member	
Tallbacka Senja	Student, member	
To be named later	Student, deputy member	
Ollikainen-Richards Hanna	Executive Head of Administration, secretary, preparer	1-27
Other preparers		
Järvelin-Pasanen Susanna	Head of Student Services	1-27
Koistinen Annika	Academic Affairs Specialist	1-26
Saxlin Tuomas		1-11



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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 20 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 as a hybrid meeting (ME201 + Teams).

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

**Decision** As proposed

Record entry 700/01.01.02/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

§ 3

**The post of Professor, Prosthetic Dentistry, Physiology of Dental Occlusion and Biomaterials Science: Description of the post to invite Professor Arzu Tezvergil-Mutluay to the part-time (50%) position until further notice: Hearing of the Faculty Council**

The School of Medicine, the Institute of Dentistry of the University of Eastern Finland has proposed in its strategic human resources plan that Arzu Tezvergil-Mutluay be invited to the post of Professor, Prosthetic Dentistry, Physiology of Dental Occlusion and Biomaterials Science, as from 1 September 2026 (or as agreed) until further notice.

The proposed grounds for the invitation procedure are:

Tezvergil-Mutluay received a Licentiate degree in Dentistry (DDS) in 1995 from Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey. She completed a specialist degree in Prosthetic Dentistry and a doctoral degree in Dentistry in 2004 at Gazi University, Turkey. She obtained the right to practise dentistry in Finland in 2005. In 2007, she received a PhD in Biomaterials and Prosthetic Dentistry from the University of Turku. In 2008, she was awarded the title of docent in the field of prosthetic dentistry in Turkey (Turkey InterUniversity Board) and in 2009 at the University of Turku. In 2011, she received a specialist degree in Prosthetic Dentistry and Physiology of Dental Occlusion in Turkey (Ministry of Health, Turkey) and in 2014, in clinical dentistry (with a focus on Prosthetic Dentistry and Physiology of Dental Occlusion) from the University of Turku.

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Tezvergil-Mutluay has acted as a professor of cariology and restorative dentistry and head of the academic subject at the Department of Dentistry of the University of Turku since 2016. Prior to this, she worked at the Department of Dentistry of the University of Turku as, among others, acting professor of cariology and restorative dentistry (2014–2015), Academy Research Fellow (2008–2016), university lecturer (2012–2014), clinical lecturer (2012–2014) and Academy Research Fellow (2008–2013). She has also worked as a specialising dentist at the University Hospital of Turku (2012–2014). Tezvergil-Mutluay has also been a visiting researcher at the University of Toronto (2016), Georgia Regents University (2014–2015), UMBC Maryland (2012–2013, 3 months) and Medical College of Georgia (2009–2011) and as an intern at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (2009).

Tezvergil-Mutluay's list of publications contains 131 original international peer-reviewed scientific articles, three other publications, two doctoral dissertations, two other books and one patent. She has supervised eight doctoral dissertations and is currently supervising four. She has acted as a preliminary examiner of five doctoral dissertations and as an opponent of six doctoral dissertations both in Finland and abroad.

As a principal investigator, Tezvergil-Mutluay has acquired a total of approx. EUR 2.2 million in external funding for years 2006–2028.

On the basis of the above, Docent, PhD Arzu Tezvergil-Mutluay fulfils the requirements of the invitation procedure to the post of Professor, Prosthetic Dentistry, Physiology of Dental Occlusion and Biomaterials Science.

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Arzu Tezvergil-Mutluay's CV and list of publications are enclosed with this agenda item as annexes.

According to section 33 of the Universities Act (558/2009), the professorship may be filled by invitation without a public notice of vacancy when an academically distinguished person is being invited to take the position or a candidate is appointed to the position for a fixed period. Only a person who indisputably fulfils the qualification requirements may be appointed to the post by invitation.

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, a person to be appointed to a permanent professorship or to a professorship of over a two-year term shall be scientifically or artistically qualified, have good teaching skills and, if important for attending to the duties, practical familiarity with the field of the post.

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Dean will decide on the scope and specifications of the post of a professor after hearing the Faculty Council. The Dean will decide whether the professor is required to have practical knowledge of the scope of the post. The Dean will make a proposal to the Rector on a person to be appointed as a professor for two years or more after consulting the Faculty Council.

The description of the post of Professor is enclosed with this agenda item as an annex. The description of the post includes the scope and



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specifications of the post required by the UEF University Regulations. The description of the post requires that the person to be invited to the said post of Professor has practical familiarity with the field of the post.

**Motion** The Faculty Council will discuss the proposed scope and specifications of the post and the Dean's proposal on the person to be invited to it.

**Decision** As proposed

Record entry 419/01.01.03/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

§ 4

### **A proposal on the person to be appointed as Clinical Lecturer, Geriatrics: Hearing of the Faculty Council**

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, Head of the department or school will make a proposal to the Dean on persons to be appointed to permanent posts of the four-stage career model of teaching and research staff after hearing the Faculty Council.

A call for applications was organised for the post of Clinical Lecturer (Geriatrics) by the Institute of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition of the University of Eastern Finland's School of Medicine.

One applicant submitted their application to the post by the deadline: MD Sini Toppala.

A person to be appointed as Clinical Lecturer shall hold a suitable doctoral degree. For a special reason, a person who has completed a specialist degree in medicine or dentistry, or a person who has the right to act as a specialist in medicine or dentistry may be appointed as a Clinical Lecturer. Furthermore, a person to be appointed as Clinical Lecturer shall have good teaching skills (UEF 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 Institute of Clinical Medicine proposes in its proposal (Annex) that MD, medical specialist Sini Toppala be appointed to the said post of Clinical Lecturer as from 1 August 2026 until further notice. The Head of the School of Medicine supports the proposal.

Sini Toppala received a doctoral degree in medicine in 2022 and a specialist degree in Geriatrics in 2016 from the University of Turku.

Toppala's CV and list of publications are enclosed with the agenda item as Annexes.

No trial lecture is required.

**Motion** The Faculty Council will discuss the proposal.

**Decision** As proposed

Record entry 621/01.08.00/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

§ 5

**Granting the title of docent to MD Jani Liimatta in the field of Paediatrics**

MD Jani Liimatta has proposed that he be awarded the title of docent in the field of Paediatric Endocrinology 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. The Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences has invited Professor Jorma Torppari (University of Turku) and Docent Matti Hero (University of Helsinki) as experts.

Professor Torppari submitted his statement on 6 May 2026 and Docent Hero on 10 May 2026. The experts considered that Paediatrics would be a more accurate field of the title of docent. The academic subject and the applicant are in favour of changing the field of the title of docent. Both experts consider the applicant to be scientifically qualified for the docentship and are in favour of awarding the title of docent. The statements of the experts are enclosed with this 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

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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 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 Faculty of Health Sciences for the title of docent and decides to grant the title of docent in Paediatrics to MD Jani Liimatta.

### **Decision**

As proposed

Record entry 623/01.08.00/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

§ 6

**Granting the title of docent to PhD Salla Keskitalo in the field of Translational Proteomics**

PhD Salla Keskitalo has proposed that she be awarded the title of docent in the field of Translational Proteomics 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. The Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences has invited Professor Laura Elo (University of Turku) and Docent Harri Itkonen (University of Helsinki) as experts.

Professor Elo submitted her statement on 8 May 2026 and Docent Itkonen on 7 May 2026. Both experts consider the applicant to be scientifically qualified for the docentship they are applying for and are in favour of awarding the title of docent. The statements of the experts are enclosed with this 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 some other manner, and good teaching skills.

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The Docent Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences stated, when it processed the application, that the applicant 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 Faculty of Health Sciences for the title of docent and decides to grant the title of docent in Translational Proteomics to PhD Salla Keskitalo.

**Decision**      As proposed

Record entry 620/01.08.00/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

§ 7

### **Granting the title of docent to PhD Annette Bauer-Brandl in the field of Pharmaceutical Technology**

PhD Annette Bauer-Brandl has proposed that she be awarded the title of docent in the field of Pharmaceutical Technology 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. The Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences has invited Professor Natasa Skalko-Basnet (University of Tromsø) and Professor Anette Larsson (Chalmers University of Technology) as experts.

Both experts submitted their statements on 5 May 2026 and consider the applicant to be scientifically qualified for the docentship they are applying for and are in favour of awarding the title of docent. The statements of the experts are enclosed with this 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

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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 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 Faculty of Health Sciences for the title of docent and decides to grant the title of docent in Pharmaceutical Technology to PhD Annette Bauer-Brand.

**Decision** As proposed

Record entry 619/01.08.00/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

§ 8

### **Granting the title of docent to PhD Elias Ylä-Herttuala in the field of Translational Cardiovascular Imaging**

PhD Elias Ylä-Herttuala has proposed that he be awarded the title of docent in the field of Translational Cardiovascular Imaging 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. The Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences has invited Professor Miika Nieminen (University of Oulu) and Professor Jani Saunavaara (University of Turku) as experts.

Professor Nieminen submitted his statement on 1 April 2026 and Professor Saunavaara on 8 May 2026. Both experts consider the applicant to be scientifically qualified for the docentship they are applying for and are in favour of awarding the title of docent. The statements of the experts are enclosed with this 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

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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 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 Faculty of Health Sciences for the title of docent and decides to grant the title of docent in Translational Cardiovascular Imaging to PhD Elias Ylä-Herttuala.

### **Decision**

As proposed. Jussi Tohka did not participate in the processing of the matter (disqualified due to a special reason).

Record entry 1004/03.01.00/2025

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

§ 9

**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.

**Decision** As proposed.

Record entry No 98/03.00.01/2026

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

§ 10

**Approval of the amendment to the curriculum for the degree programme in dentistry 2025–2028 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 degree requirements.

The curriculum for the degree programme in Dentistry 2025–2028 was approved at the Faculty Council meeting of 20 February 2025 (Dnro 6411/03.00.01/2024) and the amendments to the curriculum for 2026–2028 on 26 February 2026 (Dnro 98/03.00.01/2026).

A change is proposed to the approved curriculum for the degree programme in Dentistry 2025–2028 concerning advanced practical training. Principles for completing the training were adopted nationally on 4 May 2026.

The following changes will enter into force on 1 August 2026.

- The duration of the advanced practical training is five (5) months (30 ECTS) in full-time employment.
- The advanced practical training can also be completed, for a justified reason, in the Oral and Dental Diseases Teaching Unit of the Wellbeing Services County, in which case the student is required to be eligible to

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act as a deputy granted by the Finnish Supervisory Agency and, if necessary, a personal study plan (PSP).

The advanced practical training is completed in the social and health centre of the Wellbeing Services County, in an employment relationship with the Wellbeing Services County. The advanced practical training may be replaced by working as a deputy dentist in a health centre of the Wellbeing Services County for 1-2 months, when the student has completed the studies of the first four academic years. The deputy position may also be carried out in an employment relationship with the unit to which the oral health care of the Welfare Services County has been partially or fully outsourced, provided that the work involves treating patients of the Welfare Services County. Private practice in a private company is not accepted as part of the advanced practical training. The work of a deputy dentist may be accepted as part of the advanced practical training starting on 1 June 2026.

The principles and course description of the advanced practical training in dentistry are enclosed with the agenda item as an annex.

**Motion** The Faculty Council confirms the amendment to the curriculum for the degree programme in dentistry for the academic years 2026-2028 regarding practical training as proposed.

**Decision** As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 11

### **Grading MSc Sonja Koivukoski'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 Sonja Koivukoski's doctoral dissertation and study "[Applicability of virtual staining in histological whole slide images](#)" was examined publicly on 17 April 2026. The opponent, Professor Johanna Arola (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 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 statements, the Faculty Council grades MSc Sonja Koivukoski's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

### **Decision**

As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 12

### **Grading MSc Elias Haapakorva'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 Elias Haapakorva's doctoral dissertation and study "[Coniferous resin and its extracts in wound healing: from folk tradition to modern medicine](#)" was examined publicly on 8 May 2026. The opponent, Professor Varpu Marjomäki (University of Jyväskylä) 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 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 statements, the Faculty Council grades MSc Elias Haapakorva's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

### **Decision**

As proposed.



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Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 13

### **Grading MSc Stef Bosch'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 Stef Bosch's doctoral dissertation and study "Towards enhanced targetability and efficiency of therapeutic nanoparticles - Strategies, Mechanisms, and Emerging trends" was examined publicly on 17 April 2026. The opponent, professor Jessica Rosenholm (Åbo Akademi) 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 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 statements, the Faculty Council grades MSc Stef Bosch's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

### **Decision**

As proposed. Tatu Lajunen did not participate in the processing of the matter (disqualified due to a special reason).

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 14

### **Grading MSc (Pharmacy) Janika Olenius'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 (Pharmacy) Janika Olenius's doctoral dissertation and study "[Lipid-based formulations in dry eye disease treatment: Investigation of commercial artificial tear substitutes and novel liposomal formulations based on tear film lipids](#)" was examined publicly on 14 April 2026. The opponent, Professor Sara Nicoli (University of Parma, Italy) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Pharmacy 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 (Pharmacy) Janika Olenius's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision** As proposed. Tatu Lajunen did not participate in the processing of the matter (disqualified due to a special reason).

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 15

### **Grading Lic.Med. Aku Kaipainen'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. Aku Kaipainen's doctoral dissertation and study "[Multimodal Biomarkers in Neurodegenerative Disease: Integrating AI Assisted Brain MRI and CT Analysis with CSF and Audiometric Measures](#)" was examined publicly on 10 April 2026. The opponent, Professor Einar Vik-Mo (University of Oslo, Norway) 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. Aku Kaipainen's doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

**Decision** As proposed

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 16

### **Grading MB Veera Nurmela'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.

MB Veera Nurmela's doctoral dissertation and study "[Immune checkpoint inhibitors in the treatment of cancer: prognostic biomarkers and management of adverse events](#)" was examined publicly on 24 April 2026. The opponent, Docent Siru Mäkelä (Helsinki University Hospital) 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 MB Veera Nurmela's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

### **Decision**

As proposed. Veera Nurmela did not participate in the processing of the matter (disqualified due to involvement).



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Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 17

### **Grading Lic.Med. Alma Varheenmaa'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. Alma Varheenmaa's doctoral dissertation and study "[Cardiac repolarization over the course of multiple sclerosis: distinct features across clinical phenotypes](#)" was examined publicly on 17 April 2026. The opponent, Docent Sari Atula (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. Alma Varheenmaa's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

### **Decision**

As proposed.



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Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 18

### **Grading Lic.Med. Anniina Hytönen'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. Anniina Hytönen's doctoral dissertation and study "[Severe aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage in Eastern Finland – Patients' individual timelines and serial brain imaging with long-term outcome](#)" was examined publicly on 25 April 2026. The opponent, Associate Professor Miikka Korja (Helsinki University Hospital) 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. Anniina Hytönen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision** As proposed

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 19

### **Grading MSc Marja-Leena Lamidi'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 Marja-Leena Lamidi's doctoral dissertation and study "[Using Electronic Health Records to Track Trends in Care, Medication, and Healthcare Utilization among People with Type 2 Diabetes](#)" was examined publicly on 17 April 2026. The opponent, Professor Emeritus Ilmo Keskimäki (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 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 Marja-Leena Lamidi's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

**Decision** As proposed



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Prepared by Annika Koistinen

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### **Grading MSc Katja Lumén'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 Katja Lumén's doctoral dissertation and study "[Toipumisen käsite ja kokemusasiantuntijoiden rooli suomalaisessa oikeuspsykiatrisessa hoidossa](#)" was examined publicly on 15 May 2026. The opponent, Professor Eija Paavilainen (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 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 Katja Lumén's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

### **Decision**

As proposed



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Record entry No 96/00.03.04/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

§ 21

### Faculty Council meetings in the autumn semester 2026

The meetings of the autumn semester 2026 are proposed as follows:

Thu 27 August at 14:00

Thu 24 September at 14:00

Mon 26 October 9:00

Thu 26 November at 14:00

Thu 17 December at 14:00

**Motion** The Faculty Council approves the proposed meeting schedule for the autumn semester 2026.

**Decision** As proposed

Record entry No 1232/03.00.00/2020

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

§ 22

**Establishing a major in Pharmaceutical Engineering and launching new 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 School of Pharmacy proposes that a new degree programme be launched in the field of technology in cooperation with the Department of Technical Physics of the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology. 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 Bachelor's degree is completed at the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology and the Master's degree at the Faculty of Health Sciences. The major subject is Pharmaceutical Engineering.

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

**Decision** As proposed

Record entry No 1232/03.00.00/2020

Prepared by

§ 23

**Proposal for the establishment of a new major subject in the Doctoral Programme of the Faculty of Health Sciences**

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will decide, within the scope of the faculty's educational responsibility, on the launch of a new major subject and shutting down of an existing one.

The Doctoral Programme of the Faculty of Health Sciences proposes that the following addition be made to the main subject selection of the Doctoral Programme in connection with the reform of the Doctoral Programme:

- A new major subject added: Translational dentistry

The proposal for the establishment of the major subject, with justifications, is enclosed with the agenda item as an annex. It is proposed that the new major subject enter into force on 1 August 2026.

**Motion** The Faculty Council confirms the establishment of a new major subject in the faculty's doctoral programme as proposed.

**Decision** As proposed



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Record entry 1004/03.01.00/2025

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 24

### **A change to the student admission criteria for the Doctoral Programme of the Health Sciences 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 Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences approved the student admission criteria for the Doctoral Programme of the Faculty of Health Sciences for the academic year 2026–2027 at its meeting of 23 April 2026.

The following changes are proposed to be made to the approved admission criteria regarding the list of available major subjects:

#### **Biomedicine:**

-Biomedical Imaging and Computational Image Analysis are removed from the list of major subjects.

#### **Dentistry:**

- Translational Dentistry is added to the list of major subjects.
- Oral Medicine is removed from the list of major subjects
- Oral Geriatrics is not a separate major subject, but is part of Parodontology.

#### **Medicine:**

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- Medical Genetics is removed from the list of major subjects
- The name of Exercise and Sports Medicine is changed to Exercise Medicine.

### **Health Sciences:**

The name of Nutrition (including Food Science) is changed to Nutrition.

The proposed changes have been taken into account in the enclosed admission criteria. The changes in will take effect on 1 August 2026.

### **Motion**

The Faculty Council approves the changes to the student admission criteria for the Doctoral Programme of the Faculty of Health Sciences as proposed.

### **Decision**

As proposed

Record entry 622/01.08.00/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

§ 25

**Granting the title of docent to MD Panu Kiviranta in the field of Paediatrics**

MD Panu Kiviranta has proposed that he be awarded the title of docent in the field of Paediatrics 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. The Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences has invited Professor Terhi Ruuska-Loewald (University of Oulu) and Associate Professor Samuli Rautava (University of Helsinki) as experts.

Professor Ruuska-Loewald submitted her statement on 21 May 2026 and Associate Professor Rautava on 15 May 2026. Both experts consider the applicant to be scientifically qualified for the docentship they are applying for and are in favour of awarding the title of docent. The statements of the experts are enclosed with this 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 some other manner, and good teaching skills.

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The Docent Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences stated, when it processed the application, that the applicant 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 Faculty of Health Sciences for the title of docent and decides to grant the title of docent in Paediatrics to MD Panu Kiviranta.

**Decision**

As proposed



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### **Closing of the meeting**

The chair closed the meeting at 16:11.



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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.