UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND

Minutes
Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences
Meeting No 8/2026
Meeting date 23 September 2026

Date and time 23 September 2026 at 13:00 -

Place ME201 + Teams

Participants	**Role**	**Present for items**
Members		
Forsberg Markus	Dean, Chair	1-30
Leinonen Ville	1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair	
Tohka Jussi	Professor, member	
Haapasalo Annakaisa	Professor, deputy member	1-27, 29
Kauppinen Anu	Professor, member	
Ketolainen Jarkko	Professor, deputy member	
Härkänen Marja	Professor, member	1-10
Välimäki Tarja	Professor, deputy member	
Tuomainen Tomi-Pekka	Professor, member	
Pussinen Pirkko	Professor, deputy member	1-30
Heinäniemi Merja	Professor, member	1-30
Kuittinen Outi	Professor, deputy member	
Tampio Janne	Staff, member	1-30
Rauramaa Tuomas	Staff, deputy member	
Lajunen Tatu	Staff, member	1-30
Tirkkonen Tiina	Staff, deputy member	1-30
Kotikumpu Kari	Staff, member	1-30

Küblbeck Jenni	Staff, deputy member	1-6
Lahtela-Kakkonen Maija	Staff, member	1-30
Niemi Inkeri	Staff, deputy member	
Heikkilä Reeta	Staff, member	1-30
Lehtonen Sarka	Staff, deputy member	
Kalenius Nea	Student, member	
Lähteenmäki Eino	Student, deputy member	
Nurmela Veera	Student, member	
Ahvonen Otto	Student, deputy member	
Salokangas Ville	Student, member	1-30
Halonen Kasper	Student, deputy member	
Kuosmanen Aino	Student, member	6-30
Saadi Shadi	Student, deputy member	
Tallbacka Senja	Student, member	1-30
Rossi Maria	Student, deputy member	
Ollikainen-Richards Hanna	Executive Head of Administration, secretary, preparer	1-30

Other preparers

Järvelin-Pasanen Susanna	Head of Student Services	1-30
Koistinen Annika	Academic Affairs Specialist	1-30
Saxlin Tuomas		1-27, 29

Items discussed at the meeting

Section	Heading	Page
§ 1	Opening of the meeting	6
§ 2	Legitimacy and presence of a quorum	7
§ 3	The Dean’s proposal on the person to be appointed to the post of Professor of Clinical Research: Hearing of the Faculty Council	8
§ 4	The Dean’s proposal on the scope and specifications of the post of Associate Professor of Nursing Science (Tenure Track) and the person to be appointed to the post: Hearing of the Faculty Council	10
§ 5	The Dean’s proposal on the scope and specifications of the post of Associate Professor of Medical Molecular Biology (Tenure Track) and the person to be appointed to the post: Hearing of the Faculty Council	12
§ 6	Further processing of the matter concerning the awarding of the title of docent in clinical artificial intelligence and digital health	14
§ 7	Approval of the shared sections of the student admission criteria for the education offered by the Faculty of Health Science in Finnish for 2027	16

§ 8	Deciding on the student admission criteria for the degree programme in biomedicine for 2027	18
§ 9	Deciding on the student admission criteria for the degree programmes of the School of Pharmacy for 2027	19
§ 10	Deciding on the student admission criteria for the degree programmes in dentistry and medicine for 2027	21
§ 11	Deciding on the student admission criteria for the Master’s degree programme in Nursing Science for 2027	22
§ 12	Deciding on the student admission criteria for the degree programme in Sports and Exercise Medicine for 2027	23
§ 13	Deciding on the student admission criteria for the degree programme in Nutrition for 2027	24
§ 14	Deciding on the student admission criteria for the degree programme in Health Promotion for 2027	25
§ 15	Grading Lic.Med. Eeva Björkstedt’s doctoral dissertation	26
§ 16	Grading Lic.Med. Sanna Hannonen’s doctoral dissertation	28
§ 17	Grading MSc Hanna Heloterä's doctoral dissertation	30
§ 18	Grading MSc Anni Kortekangas’s doctoral dissertation	32

§ 19	Grading MSc Piia Käyhty's doctoral dissertation	34
§ 20	Grading MHSc Sanna Mattila-Rautiainen's doctoral dissertation	36
§ 21	Grading MSc Maliheh Nekouei Marvi Langari’s doctoral dissertation	38
§ 22	Grading MSc Jonna Niskanen’s doctoral dissertation	40
§ 23	Grading MSc (Pharmacy) Teemu Sorsa’s doctoral dissertation	42
§ 24	Grading MHSc Teemu Suokko’s doctoral dissertation	44
§ 25	Grading Lic.Med. Valtteri Tapper's doctoral dissertation	46
§ 26	Grading MSc Emma Valima’s doctoral dissertation	48
§ 27	Grading MHSc Marja Vellonen’s doctoral dissertation	50
§ 28	Grading Lic.Med. Noora Nietosvaara’s doctoral dissertation	52
§ 29	Description of the post of Professor, Neurology, in order to invite Professor Eino Solje to the post: Hearing of the Faculty Council	54
§ 30	Closing of the meeting	57
§ 31	Translation of the agenda/minutes	58

§ 1

Opening of the meeting

The chair opened the meeting at 13:05.

§ 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 15 September 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 318/01.01.02/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

§ 3

The Dean's proposal on the person to be appointed to the post of Professor of Clinical Research: Hearing of the Faculty Council

By a decision made on 19 February 2026, the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences approved the description of the post of Professor/Associate Professor (tenure track) of Clinical Research.

A total of 11 persons applied for the part-time (50%) post of Professor/Associate Professor of Clinical Research by the deadline.

In accordance with the Universities Act, statements must be requested before the appointment on the qualification and merits of the applicants or the person to be invited to the post from a minimum of two experts when a person is being recruited for an employment relationship that will be effective until further notice or for a fixed period of at least two years. Sections 27–29 of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003) on disqualification shall be applied to the experts.

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

By a decision made by the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences on 19 February 2026, the person to be appointed to the post of Professor/Associate Professor (Tenure Track) of Clinical Research is not required to have practical familiarity with the field of the post.

The Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences has appointed Professor Petri Lehenkari (University of Oulu), Professor Björn Tore Gjertsen (University of Bergen) and Martin Eklund (Karolinska Institute) as experts for the recruitment process.

Based on the application documents, expert statements and interviews, the appointments committee unanimously proposes that the part-time (50%) clinical research position be filled at the professor level and that PhD Toni Rikkonen be appointed to the position as of 1 October 2026 at the earliest (or as agreed) until further notice. The appointments committee's proposal and the application documents are enclosed with this agenda item.

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Dean shall make a proposal to the Rector on the person to be appointed to the post after hearing the Faculty Council.

Toni Rikkonen is not required to give a trial lecture.

Motion The Faculty Council will discuss the proposed appointment.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 592/01.01.02/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

§ 4

The Dean's proposal on the scope and specifications of the post of Associate Professor of Nursing Science (Tenure Track) and the person to be appointed to the post: Hearing of the Faculty Council

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Dean shall make proposals to the Rector on the persons to be appointed to professorships with a term of two years or over, and to Tenure Track positions after hearing the Faculty Council.

In its strategic human resources plan, the School of Pharmacy of the University of Eastern Finland proposes that the post of Associate Professor (Tenure Track) of Nursing Science be filled at the School. The post is to be filled by appointing University Researcher Krista Jokiniemi to it without a public call as from 1 October 2026.

The position is filled for a four-year term. The position is filled for a fixed term due to it being a Tenure Track position.

The scope and description of the post are as follows: The duties of the Associate Professor of Nursing Science include leading and developing research and teaching in nursing science, and providing teaching in basic and scientific postgraduate education in nursing science. The research, teaching and societal activities focus on the effectiveness of care, the

promotion of health and well-being, the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases in a national and international operating environment in accordance with the strategy of the Department of Nursing Science and the University of Eastern Finland. In addition, the duties include acquiring external research funding, societal impact on matters in their field and international collaboration.

Based on the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, a person to be appointed as an associate professor in the tenure track shall hold a suitable doctoral degree and have good teaching skills. Furthermore, the person shall have the prerequisites to fulfil the qualification requirements of a professor by the end of the tenure track term.

In accordance with the decision of the Dean, expert statements have been requested on the qualifications and merits of the person proposed to be appointed to the post from Professor Sanna Salanterä (University of Turku) and Professor Sandra M. G. Zwakhalen (Maastricht University). The favourable expert statements are enclosed with this agenda item as annexes.

The Appointments Committee established in accordance with the UEF University Regulations consisted, by decision of the Dean, Professor Katri Hämeen-Anttila, Professor Eija Lönnroos and the Head of the Institute of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition, Professor Pekka Mäntyselkä.

In summary, the Appointments Committee states that the qualifications and merits of DHSc Krista Jokiniemi meet the criteria set for the Associate Professor level of the Tenure Track.

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

Motion The Faculty Council will address the proposed scope and specifications of the post and the proposal on the person to be appointed to it.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 1159/01.01.02/2026

Prepared by

§ 5

The Dean's proposal on the scope and specifications of the post of Associate Professor of Medical Molecular Biology (Tenure Track) and the person to be appointed to the post: Hearing of the Faculty Council

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Dean shall make proposals to the Rector on the persons to be appointed to professorships with a term of two years or over, and to Tenure Track positions after hearing the Faculty Council.

PhD Ville Paakinaho has been appointed to the post of Assistant Professor (Tenure Track), Biomedicine/Molecular Biology and Endocrinology, for the period 1 July 2023-30 June 2027. Associate Professor Paakinaho has requested that the evaluation be completed ahead of the schedule, which the faculty has supported (Tenure Track Committee, 12 March 2026).

The Appointments Committee established in accordance with the UEF University Regulations consisted, by decision of the Dean, Deputy Head, Professor Anna-Liisa Levonen-Harju, Professor Anu Kauppinen and Professor Vittorio Fortino. Expert statements have been requested from Professor Ville Hietakangas (University of Helsinki) and Professor Noora Kotaja (University of Turku). The statements are enclosed with the agenda item.

In summary, the Appointments Committee states that the qualifications and merits of PhD Ville Paakinaho meet the criteria set for the Associate Professor level of the Tenure Track.

The Dean's proposal to the Rector is that PhD Ville Paakinaho be appointed to the post to the next tenure track level, i.e., Associate Professor of Medical Molecular Biology. The position is filled for a four-year term. The position is filled for a fixed term due to it being a Tenure Track position.

Based on the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, a person to be appointed as an associate professor in the tenure track shall hold a suitable doctoral degree and have good teaching skills. Furthermore, the person shall have the prerequisites to fulfil the qualification requirements of a professor by the end of the tenure track term.

The post of Associate Professor is hosted by the Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Institute of Biomedicine. The scope and description of the post are as follows: The duties of the Associate Professor (Tenure Track) of Medical Molecular Biology include the planning, development, supervision and implementation of Bachelor's and Master's degree education in the field, the management and supervision of research, and responsibility for scientific postgraduate education.

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

Motion The Faculty Council will address the proposed scope and specifications of the post and the proposal on the person to be appointed to it.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 847/01.08.00/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

§ 6

Further processing of the matter concerning the awarding of the title of docent in clinical artificial intelligence and digital health

PhD Hamid Behravan has proposed that he be awarded the title of docent in the field of Clinical Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Eastern Finland.

The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences decided at its meeting on 27 August 2026 to award the title of docent in the said field to PhD Hamid Behravan.

After the decision, a need to specify the application documents emerged during the preparation of the matter. The enforcement of the decision was suspended under the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003) for the duration of the further investigation.
The applicant was asked to provide clarification and he has done so.

The impact of the clarification on meeting the requirements set for the title of docent and on the previous decision of the Faculty Council have been assessed. Based on the clarification, no such facts have emerged that would change the previous overall assessment of the applicant's qualification for the title of docent.

In accordance with section 89 of the Universities Act, 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 the UEF University Regulations, the Faculty Council shall decide on awarding the title of docent.

Motion The Faculty Council states that PhD Hamid Behravan still 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 University of Eastern Finland for the title of docent.

The Faculty Council decides to keep in force its decision of 27 August 2026, based on which the title of docent in clinical artificial intelligence and digital health be awarded to PhD Hamid Behravan.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 1004/03.01.00/2026

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

§ 7

Approval of the shared sections of the student admission criteria for the education offered by the Faculty of Health Science in Finnish for 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.

By its decision of 07 May 2026 (9/2026), the Vice Rector for Education of the University of Eastern Finland confirmed the general student admission guidelines of the University of Eastern Finland for 2027. The Faculty Council confirms the shared sections of the student admission criteria for the education offered in Finnish to the extent they are not specified in the admission criteria of individual study programmes.

The shared sections of the admission criteria include field-specific health requirements to support the SORA assessment. These health requirements will be confirmed as part of the student admission criteria for the fields of the Faculty of Health Sciences to which SORA legislation is applied. Applicants will be informed of them in the Studyinfo service. At the Faculty of Health Sciences, SORA legislation is applied to study programmes in pharmacy, dentistry and medicine. SORA legislation is also applied to logopedics and psychotherapist training, in which the Faculty is involved. The recommendation will be linked to the admission criteria for the relevant degree programmes.

In the student admission criteria, the shared sections are linked to the relevant sub-page on the https://www.uef.fi/en/study website of the University of Eastern Finland.

Motion The Faculty Council approves the shared sections of the student admission criteria for education offered in Finnish for 2027 as proposed.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 1004/03.01.00/2026

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

§ 8

Deciding on the student admission criteria for the degree programme in biomedicine for 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 School of Medicine, Institute of Biomedicine, has prepared a proposal for the student admission criteria for the degree programme in biomedicine for 2027. The admission criteria proposal includes the number of study places. The admission criteria proposal is enclosed with the agenda item as an Annex.

Motion The Faculty Council approves the student admission criteria for the degree programme in biomedicine for 2027 as proposed and authorises the Vice Dean (Education) to make technical changes to the admission criteria.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 1004/03.01.00/2026

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

§ 9

Deciding on the student admission criteria for the degree programmes of the School of Pharmacy for 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 School of Pharmacy has prepared proposals for the admission criteria for the Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy) and the Master of Science (Pharmacy) degree programmes for the year 2027. The admission criteria proposal includes the number of study places. The admission criteria proposals are enclosed with the agenda item as appendices.

The recommendation of the OHA Forum for the application of SORA legislation to student admissions and during study at universities apply to study programmes in pharmacy; the recommendation will be linked to the admission criteria for the degree programmes. The recommendation has been adopted as part of the shared sections of the Faculty's admission criteria for 2027.

The School of Pharmacy has prepared, in cooperation with the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology, Department of Technical Physics, student admission criteria for the Pharmaceutical Engineering, Kuopio, Bachelor of Science (Technology) and Master of Science (Technology)

degree programmes (3 + 2 years), DIA joint admissions. The Bachelor of Science (Technology) degree is completed at the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology and the Master of Science (Technology) degree at the Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Pharmacy. The programme has a total of 20 study places. In competitive merit admissions, all candidates who meet the requirements are admitted.

Motion The Faculty Council approves the student admission criteria for the study programmes of the School of Pharmacy and the Bachelor of Science (Technology) and Master of Science (Technology) degree programmes for 2027 as proposed and authorises the Vice Dean (Education) to make technical changes to the admission criteria.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 1004/03.01.00/2026

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

§ 10

Deciding on the student admission criteria for the degree programmes in dentistry and medicine for 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 School of Medicine has prepared proposals for the degree programmes in dentistry and medicine for 2027. Admission criteria proposals include the number of study places in the degree programmes. The admission criteria proposals are enclosed with the agenda item as appendices.

The recommendation of the OHA Forum for the application of SORA legislation to student admissions and during study at universities apply to study programmes in dentistry and medicine. The recommendation will be linked to the admission criteria for the relevant degree programmes. The recommendation has been adopted as part of the shared sections of the Faculty's admission criteria for 2027.

Motion The Faculty Council approves the student admission criteria for degree programmes in dentistry and medicine for 2027 as proposed and authorises the Vice Dean (Education) to make technical changes to the admission criteria.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 1004/03.01.00/2026

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

§ 11

Deciding on the student admission criteria for the Master's degree programme in Nursing Science for 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 Department of Nursing Science has prepared admission criteria proposals for the Master's degree programme in Nursing Science for 2027. The admission criteria proposal includes the number of study places. The admission criteria proposals are enclosed with the agenda item as appendices.

Motion The Faculty Council approves the student admission criteria for the degree programme in Nursing Science for 2027 as proposed and authorises the Vice Dean (Education) to make technical changes to the admission criteria.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 1004/03.01.00/2026

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

§ 12

Deciding on the student admission criteria for the degree programme in Sports and Exercise Medicine for 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 School of Medicine, Institute of Biomedicine has prepared admission criteria proposals for the degree programme in Sports and Exercise Medicine for 2027. The admission criteria proposals include the number of study places in the degree programmes. The admission criteria proposals are enclosed with the agenda item as appendices.

Motion The Faculty Council approves the student admission criteria for the degree programme in Sports and Exercise Medicine for 2027 as proposed and authorises the Vice Dean (Education) to make technical changes to the admission criteria.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 1004/03.01.00/2026

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

§ 13

Deciding on the student admission criteria for the degree programme in Nutrition for 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 School of Medicine, Institute of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition has prepared proposals for the admission criteria for the degree programme in nutrition for 2027. The admission criteria proposal includes the number of study places. The admission criteria proposals are enclosed with the agenda item as appendices.

Motion The Faculty Council approves the student admission criteria for the degree programme in Sports and Exercise Medicine for 2027 as proposed and authorises the Vice Dean (Education) to make technical changes to the admission criteria.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 1004/03.01.00/2026

Prepared by Susanna Järvelin-Pasanen

§ 14

Deciding on the student admission criteria for the degree programme in Health Promotion for 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 School of Medicine, Institute of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition has prepared admission criteria proposals for the degree programme in Health Promotion for 2027. The admission criteria proposals include the number of study places in the degree programmes. The admission criteria proposals are enclosed with the agenda item as appendices.

Motion The Faculty Council approves the student admission criteria for the degree programme in Health Promotion for 2027 as proposed and authorises the Vice Dean (Education) to make technical changes to the admission criteria.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 15

Grading Lic.Med. Eeva Björkstedt'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. Eeva Björkstedt's doctoral dissertation and study "Use of Social and Health Care Services and Associated Costs among Home Care Clients" was examined publicly on 21 August 2026. The opponent, Professor Maria Nuotio (University of Turku) 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.

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. Eeva Björkstedt's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 16

Grading Lic.Med. Sanna Hannonen'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. Sanna Hannonen's doctoral dissertation and study "Computer based eye-tracking in mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease" was examined publicly on 28 August 2026. The opponent, Docent Mikko Kärppä (University of Oulu) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in medicine and proposes the grade Pass.

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.

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. Sanna Hannonen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 17

Grading MSc Hanna Heloterä'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 Hanna Heloterä's doctoral dissertation and study "Insights into the Modulation of Age-Related Macular Degeneration: molecular and systems-level perspectives" was examined publicly on 21 August 2026. The opponent, Professor Panu Jaakkola (University of Turku), 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.

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 Hanna Heloterä's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 18

Grading MSc Anni Kortekangas's doctoral dissertation

According to section 9 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland (1 January 2024), the Faculty Council grades doctoral dissertations. According to Section 14 of the standing rules of the Faculty of Health Sciences on degrees and studies, doctoral dissertations are graded on the scale fail – pass – pass with distinction. The Faculty Council will decide on the grade of the dissertation based on the grade proposal of the opponent.

MSc Anni Kortekangas's doctoral dissertation and study "Interactions of protein, dietary fiber, and co-passengers in plant-based side streams — Technological and digestive perspectives" was examined publicly on 21 August 2026. The opponent, Professor Laura Nyström (Institute of Food, Nutrition and Health, , Switzerland) 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.

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 Anni Kortekangas's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 19

Grading MSc Piia Käyhty'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 Piia Käyhty's doctoral dissertation and study "The Application of PD-1 and Its Ligands in Immune Gene Therapy" was examined publicly on 21 August 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.

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 Piia Käyhty's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 20

Grading MHSc Sanna Mattila-Rautiainen'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.

MHSc Sanna Mattila-Rautiainen's doctoral dissertation and study “Equine-Facilitated Physical Therapy (as rehabilitation) for Chronic Low Back Pain” was examined publicly on 21 August 2026. The opponent, Professor Selcuk Akpinar (Nevsehir Haci Bektas Veli University, Turkey) 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.

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 MHSc Sanna Mattila-Rautiainen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 21

Grading MSc Maliheh Nekouei Marvi Langari'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 Maliheh Nekouei Marvi Langari's doctoral dissertation and study "Health promotion practice for preventing noncommunicable diseases among immigrants in Finnish primary healthcare: "One size does not fit all"" was examined publicly on 28 August 2026. The opponent, docent Tarja Kinnunen (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.

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 Maliheh Nekouei Marvi Langari's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 22

Grading MSc Jonna Niskanen'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 Jonna Niskanen's doctoral dissertation and study "Maladaptation of microglia in Parkinson's disease pathology: Investigations on human iPSC-derived models" was examined publicly on 28 August 2026. The opponent, Dr. Sally Cowley (University of Oxford, UK) 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.

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 Jonna Niskanen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 23

Grading MSc (Pharmacy) Teemu Sorsa'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) Teemu Sorsa's doctoral dissertation and study "Long-acting ocular drug delivery: from in vitro to in vivo investigation" was examined publicly on 11 September 2026. The opponent, tenured professor Vanessa Andrés Guerrero (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain) 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.

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) Teemu Sorsa's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 24

Grading MHSc Teemu Suokko'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.

MHSc Teemu Suokko's doctoral dissertation and study "Ergonomics: The dark matter of work system design. Understanding socio technical navigation capabilities in the Finnish manufacturing industry" was examined publicly on 21 August 2026. The opponent, Professor Jussi Kantola (University of Turku) 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.

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

Motion Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MHSc Teemu Suokko's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 25

Grading Lic.Med. Valtteri Tapper'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. Valtteri Tapper's doctoral dissertation and study "Tibial plateau fractures in older patients: epidemiology, outcomes and the role of primary total knee replacement" was examined publicly on 4 September 2026. The opponent, Docent Rami Madanat (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.

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. Valtteri Tapper's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 26

Grading MSc Emma Valima'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 Emma Valima's doctoral dissertation and study "Chromatin SUMOylation as a regulator of transcription factor function and cell fate in B-cell leukemia" was examined publicly on 11 September 2026. The opponent, Professor Noora Kotaja (University of Turku) 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.

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 Emma Valima's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 27

Grading MHSc Marja Vellonen'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.

MHSc Marja Vellonen's doctoral dissertation and study "Improving the flow of medication information in home care.An intervention study" was examined publicly on 21 August 2026. The opponent, Professor Riitta Suhonen (University of Turku) 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.

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

Motion Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MHSc Marja Vellonen's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 113/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annika Koistinen

§ 28

Grading Lic.Med. Noora Nietosvaara'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. Noora Nietosvaara's doctoral dissertation and study "Appearance of congenital upper limb differences and the cosmetic effect of surgical treatment" was examined publicly on 28 August 2026. The opponent, Professor Roger Cornwall (University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, USA) 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.

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. Noora Nietosvaara's doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 1183/01.01.02/2026

Prepared by Hanna Ollikainen-Richards

§ 29

Description of the post of Professor, Neurology, in order to invite Professor Eino Solje to the post: Hearing of the Faculty Council

In its strategic human resources plan, the School of Medicine, the Institute of Clinical Medicine of the University of Eastern Finland has proposed that Eino Solve be invited to the post of a Professor, Neurology, until further notice.

The proposed grounds for the invitation procedure are: Eino Solje received a doctoral degree in Medicine in 2017 from the University of Eastern Finland. He also received a specialist degree in neurology in 2023. He was awarded the title of docent in Experimental Neurology in 2020 by the University of Eastern Finland. Eino Solje currently works as a part-time Professor of Clinical Research and as Director of the Brain Research Unit at the Institute of Clinical Medicine of the University of Eastern Finland's School of Medicine, and as Chief Physician of Neurology in the Well-being Services County of North Savo.

His previous roles at the University of Eastern Finland include Associate Professor (2024–2026), Research Director (2022–2023) and Postdoctoral Researcher (2017–2020). He has also acted as a visiting researcher at the University of Brescia in Italy (2020–2021).

Eino Solje's list of publications contains 105 peer-reviewed scientific publications. He has supervised four doctoral dissertations and is currently supervising 16 more, in four of which he is the main supervisor. He has served as a preliminary examiner and opponent of doctoral dissertations and has been active in other academic expert positions in his field. He has acquired a total of about EUR 6.6 million of research funding from various sources.

Eino Solje's CV and list of publications are enclosed with this agenda item as annexes.

On the basis of the above, Professor Eino Solje fulfils the requirements of the invitation procedure to the post of Professor, Neurology.

According to 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 professorship shall be scientifically or artistically qualified, have good teaching skills and, if important for attending to the duties, have practical familiarity with the field of the post.

According to the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will discuss proposals on the scope and specifications of the post of a professor and, according to the same, the Dean will decide on the scope and specifications of the post of a professor after hearing the Faculty Council. The Dean will appoint experts to provide statements on those who have applied for or have been invited to a post of Professor (UEF University Regulations).

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

The description of the post also includes a proposal that the invitation procedure be used to invite Professor Eino Solje to it.

Eino Solje's consent is enclosed as an annex.

Motion The Faculty Council will discuss the description of the post of Professor, Neurology, and the Dean's proposal on the person to be invited to it.

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

§ 30

Closing of the meeting

The chair closed the meeting at 14:53.

§ 31

Translation of the agenda/minutes

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