

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

1 (36)

Date and time 24 September 2026, 14:00 - 14:33

Place Teams

Participants	Role	Present for items
Members		
Turtiainen Matti	Dean, Chair	1–17
Rissanen Sari	1st Vice Dean, Vice Chair	
Minna Tanskanen	2nd Vice Dean	1–17
Makkonen Teemu	Professor, member	
Lammintakanen Johanna	Professor, deputy member	
Peltola Taru	Professor, member	1–17
Räsänen Tuomas	Professor, deputy member	1–17
Koponen Jonna	Professor, member	1–17
Heilmann Pia	Professor, deputy member	
Castrén Anna-Maija	Professor, member	1–17
Finell Eerika	Professor, deputy member	
Aaltonen Mikko	Professor, member	1–17
Pölönen Ismo	Professor, deputy member	
Tammenlehto Laura	Staff, member	1–17
Muukkonen Matti	Staff, deputy member	

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

2 (36)

Suonio Mari	Staff, member	
Ryynänen Sanna	Staff, deputy member	1–17
Karhapää Sari-Johanna	Staff, member	1–17
Honkamäki Tuomas	University Lecturer, deputy member	
Parpei Kati	Staff, member	1–17
Halonen Maija	Staff, deputy member	
Kivivirta Ville	Staff, member	1–17
Virkkunen Joni	Staff, deputy member	
Kortelainen Janne	Student, member	1–17
Akiala Matias	Student, deputy member	1–17
Thapa Kshitij	Student, member	1–17
Huotari Timi	Student, deputy member	
Baljashkin Janina	Student, member	1–17
Valolempi Aarni	Student, deputy member	1–17
Ojalehto Päivikki	Student, member	1–17
Eklund Essi	Student, deputy member	1–17
Packalén Joonatan	Student, member	1–17
Huitula Jutta	Student, deputy member	
Junkkarinen Marko	Executive Head of Administration, secretary, preparer	1–17

Other preparers

Honkanen Annikki Head of Academic Affairs 1–17



UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

3 (36)

Korhonen Anne	Academic Affairs	1–17
	Specialist	
Paronen Minna	Amanuensis	
Romppanen Jarmo	Academic Affairs	
	Specialist	

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

4 (36)

Items discussed at the meeting

Section	Heading	Page
§ 1	Opening of the meeting	5
§ 2	Legitimacy and presence of a quorum	6
§ 3	Grading MSocSc Juulia Hietamäki's doctoral dissertation in the field of Social Work	7
§ 4	Grading MSocSc Zain Ul Abdin's doctoral dissertation in the field of Human Geography	9
§ 5	Grading MSocSc Katja Lötjönen's doctoral dissertation in the field of Social Psychology	11
§ 6	Grading MSocSc Ida Herdieckerhoff's doctoral dissertation in the field of Environmental Policy	13
§ 7	Specialisation studies in legal competence for municipal leaders: Approval of the student admission criteria for supplementary admissions	15
§ 8	Approval of the admission criteria for the education provided by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies in Finnish for 2027	16
§ 9	Granting the title of docent to PhD Eeva Berglund	18
§ 10	Granting the title of docent to PhD Francesco Cappellano	21
§ 11	Granting the title of docent to PhD Jacques Hartmann	24
§ 12	A proposal on the person to be appointed to the post of University Lecturer, Social Law, Department of Social Sciences: Hearing of the Faculty Council	27



UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

5 (36)

§ 13	The scope and specifications of the post: University Lecturer, Social Policy, Department of Social Sciences	30
§ 14	For information	31
§ 15	Grading MSocSc Essi Rovamo's doctoral dissertation in the field of Social Work	32
§ 16	Closing of the meeting	34
§ 17	Translation of the agenda/minutes	35



UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

6 (36)

§ 1

Opening of the meeting

The chair opened the meeting at 14:00.

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

7 (36)

§ 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 17 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 via Teams.

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

Decision As proposed.

Record entry 83/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annikki Honkanen

§ 3

Grading MSocSc Juulia Hietamäki's doctoral dissertation in the field of Social Work

MSocSc Juulia Hietamäki's doctoral dissertation and study "Emergency Child Removals in Finnish Municipalities: A System-Level Analysis" was examined publicly on 4 September 2026. The opponent, Professor Timo Harrikari (University of Helsinki) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Social Sciences and proposes the grade Pass with distinction.

According to section 44 of the Universities Act (558/2009), before a doctoral dissertation is graded, the author must be given an opportunity to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the statement. The opponent's statement is enclosed with the agenda item as an appendix.

Doctoral dissertations are graded on the scale of pass and fail (Education Regulations, section 32). Doctoral dissertations submitted for preliminary examination before 1 August 2026 are graded on the scale of pass with distinction – pass – fails (curriculum for doctoral education).

According to section 29 of the Universities Act (558/2009), a study attainment may be assessed only by those members or deputy members of a multi-

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

9 (36)

member administrative body who have a degree or completed study
attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors.

Link to the publication: <https://erepo.uef.fi/handle/123456789/38932>

Motion Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MSocSc Juulia Hietamäki's
doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

Decision As proposed.

Annexes

1 Opponent's statement (Harrikari)

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

10 (36)

Record entry 83/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annikki Honkanen

§ 4

Grading MSocSc Zain UI Abdin's doctoral dissertation in the field of Human Geography

MSoc Sc Zain UI Abdin's doctoral dissertation and study "Reconfiguring Student Migration Pathways: A Transnational Social Protection Approach to Remittances and Economic Integration" was examined publicly on 11 September 2026. The opponent, Professor of Human Geography Johanna Waters (Univesity College London, UK) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Philosophy and proposes the grade Pass with distinction.

According to section 44 of the Universities Act (558/2009), before a doctoral dissertation is graded, the author must be given an opportunity to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the statement. The opponent's statement is enclosed with the agenda item as an appendix.

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Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

11 (36)

According to section 29 of the Universities Act (558/2009), a study attainment may be assessed only by those members or deputy members of a multi-member administrative body who have a degree or completed study attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors.

Link to the publication: <https://erepo.uef.fi/handle/123456789/38971>

Motion Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MSoc Sc Zain UI Abdin's doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

Decision As proposed.

Annexes

2 Opponent's statement (Waters)

Record entry 83/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annikki Honkanen

§ 5

Grading MSocSc Katja Lötjönen's doctoral dissertation in the field of Social Psychology

MSocSc Katja Lötjönen's doctoral dissertation and study "A quiet dynamics approach to social class: Lay perceptions of social class among Finnish young people" was examined publicly on 11 September 2026. The opponent DSocSc, Docent, University Researcher Päivi Berg (University of Helsinki) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Social Sciences and proposes the grade Pass.

According to section 44 of the Universities Act (558/2009), before a doctoral dissertation is graded, the author must be given an opportunity to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the statement. The opponent's statement is enclosed with the agenda item as an appendix.

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Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

13 (36)

member administrative body who have a degree or completed study
attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors.

Link to the publication: <https://erepo.uef.fi/handle/123456789/38962>

Motion Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MSocSc Katja Lötjönen's
doctoral dissertation as Pass.

Decision As proposed.

Annexes

3 Opponent's statement (Berg)

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

14 (36)

Record entry 83/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annikki Honkanen

§ 6

Grading MSocSc Ida Herdieckerhoff's doctoral dissertation in the field of Environmental Policy

Grading MSocSc Ida Herdieckerhoff's doctoral dissertation and study "Dynamics between Uncertainty and Collaboration in Forest-Dependent Livelihoods" was examined publicly on 11 September 2026. The opponent, Associate Professor Verina Ingram (Wageningen University, the Netherlands) is in favour of the doctoral dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Social Sciences and proposes the grade Pass.

According to section 44 of the Universities Act (558/2009), before a doctoral dissertation is graded, the author must be given an opportunity to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the statement. The opponent's statement is enclosed with the agenda item as an appendix.

Doctoral dissertations are graded on the scale of pass and fail (Education Regulations, section 32). Doctoral dissertations submitted for preliminary examination before 1 August 2026 are graded on the scale of pass with distinction – pass – fails (curriculum for doctoral education).

According to section 29 of the Universities Act (558/2009), a study attainment may be assessed only by those members or deputy members of a multi-

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

15 (36)

member administrative body who have a degree or completed study
attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors.

Link to the publication: <https://erepo.uef.fi/handle/123456789/39032>

Motion Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades M.Soc.Sc. Ida
Herdieckerhoff's doctoral dissertation as "Pass"

Decision As proposed.

Annexes

4 Opponent's statement (Ingram)

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

16 (36)

Record entry No 130/00.03.05/2026

Prepared by Annikki Honkanen

§ 7

Specialisation studies in legal competence for municipal leaders: Approval of the student admission criteria for supplementary admissions

The Faculty Council approved the admission criteria for the Specialisation studies in legal competence for municipal leaders at its meeting of 23 April 2026 for the studies starting in January 2027. The call for applications and the selection process took place in May-June 2026. Not all available study places were filled. The UEF Law School wishes to organise supplementary admissions to fill seven more study places.

According to section 9(4), subsection 6 of the University Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council will make decisions concerning curricula, degree requirements and student admission criteria.

Motion The Faculty Council approves the admission criteria for the specialisation studies in legal competence for municipal leaders as set out in the annexes.

Decision As proposed.

Annexes

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5 | Selection criteria for the KJERKO supplementary admissions_10_2026 |
|---|--|

Record entry No 130/00.03.05/2026

Prepared by Anne Korhonen

§ 8

Approval of the admission criteria for the education provided by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies in Finnish for 2027

The schools and departments of the faculty have prepared the admission criteria for the joint application, application via the open route and the transfer application for 2027 in accordance with the Annexes. 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 for individual study 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.

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

Motion The Faculty Council will approve the admission criteria and the shared sections of the admission criteria as set out in the Annexes.

Decision As proposed.

Annexes

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

18 (36)

- 6 Department of Geographical and Historical Studies, admission criteria 2027
- 7 Business School, admission criteria 2027
- 8 Admissions cooperation in the field of law, admission criteria 2027
- 9 Business School, admission criteria 2027
- 10 Department of Social and Health Management, admission criteria 2027
- 11 Department of Social Sciences, admission criteria 2027
- 12 Student admission criteria for 2027 - shared sections

Record entry 784/01.08.00/2026

Prepared by Marko Junkkarinen

§ 9

Granting the title of docent to PhD Eeva Berglund

PhD Eeva Berglund has applied for the title of Docent in Environmental Policy, specialising in modernity of the Global North, at the University of Eastern Finland. The application for the title of docent was initiated on 03 June 2026 at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies of the University of Eastern Finland.

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

The Department of Geographical and Historical Studies has considered the title of docent applied for by Berglund to be purposeful for the teaching and research of the Department based on the following grounds: "The applicant's expertise and field are an excellent fit for the academic subject of Environmental Policy, complementing and strengthening research into policies related to the sustainability of modern societies in particular. The applicant's expertise will broaden the department's social science expertise and support both the new "Policies for Sustainability Transitions" Bachelor's programme, which is currently being prepared, and the "Sustainable Communities" specialisation option, which started in autumn 2026."

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

20 (36)

The Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies decided to invite (10 June 2026) Professor Markus Kröger (University of Helsinki) and Professor Jarno Valkonen (University of Lapland) as experts to provide their statements on the scientific qualifications of PhD Berglund for the title of docent in Environmental Policy, specialising in modernity of the Global North. Both experts are in favour of awarding the title of docent to Berglund.

A person to be awarded the title of docent is required to have good teaching skills (Universities Act 558/2009). The Dean may exempt the applicant from the requirement to give a trial lecture if the teaching merits can be verified in some other manner in accordance with the faculty's instructions on awarding the title of docent. By a decision of 20 August 2026, the Dean has exempted Berglund from the requirement to give a trial lecture and has determined her teaching merits based on the application documents.

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

The applicant meets the qualification requirements 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.

Motion

The Faculty Council states that PhD Eeva Berglund meets the criteria set out in the Universities Act for the title of docent and grants her the title of docent in the field of in Environmental Policy, specialising in modernity of the Global North, at the University of Eastern Finland.

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

21 (36)

Decision As proposed.

Annexes

- | | |
|----|--|
| 13 | Berglund's CV, teaching portfolio and list of publications |
| 14 | Expert opinions (Kröger and Valkonen) |

Record entry 783/01.08.00/2026

Prepared by Marko Junkkarinen

§ 10

Granting the title of docent to PhD Francesco Cappellano

PhD Francesco Cappellano has applied for the title of docent in Regional Innovation and Cross-border Governance at the University of Eastern Finland. The application for the title of docent was initiated on 02 June 2026 at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies of the University of Eastern Finland.

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

The Karelian Institute has considered the title of docent applied for by Cappellano to be purposeful for the teaching and research of the institute based on the following grounds: "Cappellano's solid expertise in regional innovation activities and, in particular, in the research of administrative and policy measures that support innovation in border regions, brings to the institution special expertise that is rare both nationally and internationally. Cappellano's research profile complements and deepens the existing expertise of the Karelian Institute and supports its strategic objectives. Cappellano has published his research in the key

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

23 (36)

international journals of the field, which demonstrates the high quality and impact of his research. Cappellano has maintained close research ties with the Karelian Institute also after moving to international positions in Poland and Germany. The cooperation with him has been realised, for example, through joint research funding applications and co-authored publications. He is committed to the long-term continuation and development of cooperation also in the future."

The Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies decided to invite (16 June 2026) Professor Helka Kalliomäki (University of Vaasa) and Professor Teis Hansen (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) as experts to provide their statement on the scientific qualification of PhD Cappellano for the title of docent in Regional Innovation and Cross-border Governance. Both experts are in favour of awarding the title of docent to Cappellano.

A person to be awarded the title of docent is required to have good teaching skills (Universities Act 558/2009). The Dean may exempt the applicant from the requirement to give a trial lecture if the teaching merits can be verified in some other manner in accordance with the faculty's instructions on awarding the title of docent. By a decision of 3 September 2026, the Dean has exempted Cappellano from the requirement to give a trial lecture and has determined his teaching merits based on the application documents.

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

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

24 (36)

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 University of Eastern Finland for the title of docent.

Motion

The Faculty Council states that PhD Francesco Cappellano meets the criteria set out in the Universities Act for the title of docent and grants him the title of docent in Regional Innovation and Cross-border Governance at the University of Eastern Finland.

Decision

As proposed.

Annexes

- | | |
|----|--|
| 15 | Cappellano's CV, teaching portfolio and list of publications |
| 16 | Expert statements (Kalliomäki and Hansen) |

Record entry 651/01.08.00/2026

Prepared by Marko Junkkarinen

§ 11

Granting the title of docent to PhD Jacques Hartmann

PhD Jacques Hartmann has applied for the title of docent in Public International Law and Human Rights at the University of Eastern Finland. The application for the title of docent was initiated on 29 April 2026 at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies of the University of Eastern Finland.

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

The UEF Law School has considered the title of docent applied for by Hartmann to be purposeful for the teaching and research of the School based on the following grounds: "The docentship applied for by Hartmann strengthens the expertise in international law in areas that are not part of the core expertise of the current staff, but whose importance continues to grow from the perspective of teaching and research. This also applies to research and teaching themes that are linked to CCEEL's research and teaching in Master's programmes. Security, human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples are particularly relevant."

The Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies decided to invite (27 May 2026) Professor Christian J. Tams (Kings College, London, UK)

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

26 (36)

and Professor Andrew Lang (Edinburgh Law School, Scotland) as experts to provide their statements on the scientific qualifications of PhD Hartmann for the title of docent in Public International Law and Human Rights. Both experts are in favour of awarding the title of docent to Hartmann.

A person to be awarded the title of docent is required to have good teaching skills (Universities Act 558/2009). The Dean may exempt the applicant from the requirement to give a trial lecture if the teaching merits can be verified in some other manner in accordance with the faculty's instructions on awarding the title of docent. By a decision of 4 September 2026, the Dean has exempted Hartmann from the requirement to give a trial lecture and has determined his teaching merits based on the application documents.

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

The applicant meets the qualification requirements 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.

Motion

The Faculty Council states that PhD Jacques Hartmann meets the criteria set out in the Universities Act for the title of docent and grants him the title of docent in Public International Law and Human Rights at the University of Eastern Finland.



UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

27 (36)

Decision As proposed.

Annexes

- | | |
|----|--|
| 17 | Hartmann's CV, teaching portfolio and list of publications |
| 18 | Expert statements (Tams and Lang) |

Record entry 680/01.01.03/2026

Prepared by Marko Junkkarinen

§ 12

**A proposal on the person to be appointed to the post of University Lecturer, Social Law,
Department of Social Sciences: Hearing of the Faculty Council**

According to section 10(10) of the UEF University Regulations, the Dean shall, after hearing the Faculty Council, decide on persons to be appointed to permanent positions that comply with the four-stage career model, excluding professors, senior university lecturers and senior clinical lecturers.

The post of the University Lecturer, Social Law, is hosted by the Department of Social Sciences (Joensuu Campus). The call for applications to the post ended on 22 June 2026. The following persons (2) submitted their application to the post by the deadline: PhD Henna Nikumaa and DAdmSc Iina Järvinen.

According to the description of the post that was addressed by the Faculty Council on 21 May 2026, the duties of the University Lecturer are:

- to provide extensive basic, intermediate and advanced teaching in social law, to conduct research in the field and to participate in the work carried out in research projects,
- to participate in the development of courses and their teaching in a manner to be agreed upon separately,
- to supervise Master's theses,

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

29 (36)

- to supervise doctoral theses in social law, to develop research in social law in interdisciplinary cooperation within the university and to participate in the organisation of research projects,
- to develop education and research in social sciences at the Department of Social Sciences on both the Kuopio and Joensuu campuses,
- to apply for research funding independently and in cooperation with, e.g., other schools and departments of the Faculty.

The Department of Social Sciences has proposed that PhD Henna Nikumaa be appointed to the post of University Lecturer, Social Law, as of 1 October 2026.

Henna Nikumaa meets the requirements laid down in the UEF University Regulations for the employment of a university lecturer and the requirements indicated in the description of the post. Based on the portfolio of teaching merits, Nikumaa has the good teaching skills required by the UEF University Regulations for the post of University Lecturer, Social Law.

It is proposed that PhD Henna Nikumaa be appointed to the post of University Lecturer, Social Law, as of 1 October 2026.

Motion

The Dean will hear the Faculty Council on the proposed appointment of PhD Henna Nikumaa to the post of University Lecturer, Social Law, as of 1 October 2026.

Decision

As proposed.



UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

30 (36)

- 19 Selection memorandum
- 20 Nikumaa's application documents to the post of University
Lecturer, Social Law

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

31 (36)

Record entry 1161/01.01.03/2026

Prepared by Marko Junkkarinen

§ 13

The scope and specifications of the post: University Lecturer, Social Policy, Department of Social Sciences

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

The specifications of the following post are enclosed as an Annex.

University Lecturer, Social Policy. The post is intended to be filled with an open-ended contract as from 1 January 2027.

Motion The Faculty Council will discuss the specifications of the post.

Decision As proposed.

Annexes

21 Description of the post of University Lecturer

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

32 (36)

§ 14

For information

Statistics on the faculty's Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees on 11
September 2026 (Annexes).

Topical faculty matters.

Motion Marked for information.

Decision As proposed.

Annexes

- | | |
|----|---|
| 22 | Degrees completed on 14 September 2026 |
| 23 | Doctoral dissertations on 11 September 2026 |

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

33 (36)

Record entry 83/03.04.09/2026

Prepared by Annikki Honkanen

§ 15

Grading MSocSc Essi Rovamo's doctoral dissertation in the field of Social Work

MSocSc Essi Rovamo's doctoral dissertation and study "Psykiatrisen erikoissairaanhoidon potilaiden sosiaaliset riskit: Monimenetelmäinen rekisteritutkimus" was examined publicly on 17 September 2026. The opponent, Docent, DSSc Kirsi Günther (University of Turku) is in favour of the dissertation being approved as a thesis for a doctoral degree in Social Sciences and proposes the grade Pass with distinction.

According to section 44 of the Universities Act (558/2009), before a doctoral dissertation is graded, the author must be given an opportunity to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or the opponent's statement. The doctoral candidate has no comments on the statement. The opponent's statement is enclosed with the agenda item as an appendix.

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Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

34 (36)

member administrative body who have a degree or completed study
attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors.

Link to the publication: <https://erepo.uef.fi/items/b66916ac-8565-4d54-868d-5a77c2abc0f8>

Motion

Based on the statement, the Faculty Council grades MSocSc Essi Rovamo's
doctoral dissertation as Pass with distinction.

Decision

As proposed.

Annexes

24 Opponent's statement (Gunther)



UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

35 (36)

§ 16

Closing of the meeting

The chair closed the meeting at 14:33.

Minutes

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences and
Business Studies

Meeting No 8/2026

Meeting date 24 September 2026

36 (36)

§ 17

Translation of the agenda/minutes

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

Annexes

25 Agenda of the meeting