

Master's thesis evaluation in the Faculty of Science and Forestry

According to section 11 of the Administrative Regulations of the University of Eastern Finland, the Faculty Council's task is to evaluate Master's theses based on reviewers' statements. In the decision from 21 January 2014, the Faculty Council has delegated the authority to evaluate Master's theses or other equivalent theses to the Dean in those cases when the reviewers' statements are unanimous and no special conditions are presented in them. Despite the delegation decision, upon request from the student the Faculty Council will always evaluate the Master's thesis.

The principal procedure is that the reviewers strive for a unanimous statement of evaluation with one grade recommendation. If, however, the reviewers of the Master's thesis come to different results, they will give separate statements of evaluation with divergent grade recommendations and their justifications. The Faculty can separately request further clarification on the divergent statements for the purposes of the Faculty Council meeting. The student will be heard on the matter of two grade recommendations before the Faculty Council meeting takes place, and the student's possible rejoinder will be presented to the Faculty Council when the decision is being made.

The Faculty Council will decide on the grading on the basis of the submitted statements, possible further clarifications and the hearing of the student. Alternatively, the Faculty Council will settle the matter by requesting an additional statement from a third reviewer, who will be appointed by the Dean. The use of a third reviewer may be justified when, for example, the department's evaluation standards in relation to other units of the same science need to be verified. Requirements of impartiality, as listed in the Administrative Procedure Act, are taken into account when the reviewer is appointed. The third reviewer will conduct the evaluation independently.

After the third reviewer's statement has been submitted, the student will be heard on the matter. The Faculty Council will decide on the approval and grading of the Master's thesis. A possible rejoinder from the student will be taken into account in the decision making process.