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Edition

Faculty of Laws Newsletter

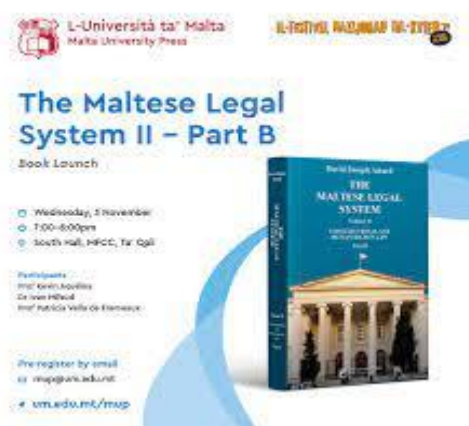
Issue
No. 17

Comment from the Dean

During a meeting held during February between the College of Deans and the University Rector, the Dean, Faculty for the Built Environment, raised the issue of how his Faculty is constantly under fire from practitioners and students alike, all of whom have their own ideas about how and what the UM should lecture, and all of who believe that the UM is too theoretical and does not do enough to prepare the students for the profession. Other attendees shared similar experiences within their own faculties; the Rector's advice was to engage continuously with stakeholders, listen to their criticism and consider it carefully; ultimately however the UM and its Academics must remain in control of the curriculum and must remain the ultimate decision-takers where academic content is concerned.

This is indeed what the Faculty of Laws has been doing for quite a while. Indeed we are in the middle of such a process with the Chamber of Advocates itself; we are listening, we are discussing and are taking the time to explain our thinking, our views and reasons why certain things are done in a certain way, but we are also ready to adapt and to adopt suggestions where this is possible and where we are convinced that these will lead to a better product.

Another topic discussed at the same meeting with UM Rector was the Malta University Press, which incidentally is not to be confused with Malta University Publishing. While the latter is also a publishing entity, the MUP is the publishing arm of the University of Malta which offers peer review services and which, according to the UM Rector, we Academics should publish more of our books with.



L-Università ta' Malta
Malta University Press

IL-FESTIVAL NAZZJONALI DE-TTORTU

The Maltese Legal System II – Part B

Book Launch

- Wednesday, 3 November
- 7:00-8:00pm
- South Hall, MFCC, 1st floor

Participants:
Prof. Kevin Kappas
Dr. Ivan Hristov
Prof. Patricia Vella de Francesco

For register by email
at mup@um.edu.mt

or um.edu.mt/mup

It was pointed out to Rector that many academics do not publish with MUP because the process is so laborious and marketing leaves so much to be desired, a case in point being Prof David Attard's *The Maltese Legal System* which students require to purchase but far too often do not know from where it is available, the reason being that MUP's visibility on Campus is absolutely nil apart from the adverts which the Faculty of Laws put up on their screens in an initiative aimed at helping MUP market its publications. This initiative followed a meeting with Prof. Gorg Mallia who chairs the MUP's editorial board.

On the plus side, MUP has recently opened an online shop, which may be accessed by clicking the following link: <https://www.um.edu.mt/mup/store/our-catalogue/>

Periodic Program Review

This month the PPR process (LL.B Hons, M.Adv and M.Not) entered its second stage, this being a meeting held at the Faculty of Laws, between Dr Jacqueline Vanhear and her team, and the Faculty Heads of Department. During said meeting we received feedback in response to the 'Self Evaluation' Forms we filled in a few months' ago. A number of positives were noted, including our willingness to consider new methods of assessment such as use of vivas, and also our resorting to open book exams where concerned certain study units. Significantly the Committee also acknowledged the importance of a suitable workplace, making particular reference to the fact that the Faculty of Laws is in appropriately situated in the same building where all of the University of Malta's toilet paper rolls and bleach bottles are stored.

Lecture by UK Parliamentary Ombudsman

On 6th February 2024 a lecture was delivered in Parliament, by the UK Parliamentary Ombudsman Mr Rob Behrens CBE on *The Parliamentary Ombudsman Experience, Reflections on the Past and Present. Looking to the Future*'. On this occasion Mr Behrens shared his experience and insight into his years as Parliamentary Ombudsman and also replied to questions from the audience. This presentation was attended by a number of academics from the UM, including from the Faculty of Laws, and even by a number of Law Students (by invitation). The lecture may be viewed at <https://youtu.be/H3z3DQCkkB4> .

Lecture at the Chamber of Advocates

As part of the ICON-S lectures scheduled for 2024, on 28th February Dr Ivan Mifsud delivered a lecture on *Chapter II of the Constitution: Any Legal Significance?* at the Chamber of Advocates, Law Courts, Valletta. In this lecture it was argued that Chapter II of the Constitution has been wrongly devalued and neglected. It was submitted that, contrary to what the late Professor JJ Cremona wrote in his ‘Maltese Const-



itution and Constitutional History since 1813’ p.80, the principles found in this Chapter are of much more significance than being of ‘some help in legal interpretation’, and should be both regarded and upheld as such by the Maltese Courts.

Professor Emeritus from Groningen University visit



Professor Laurence Gormley a professor emeritus from Groningen University and from the College of Europe (Bruges) visited the Faculty of Laws on the 23rd of February 2024. He is one of the most prominent professors in EU Law, having led the Groningen Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for over 20 years.

This was his first visit to the Faculty of Laws in many years, having served as an external examiner in EU Law in 1994. The lecture he delivered mainly concerned the preliminary reference procedure to the CJEU. His lecture was also attended by a number of practicing lawyers, apart from our students.

Congratulations

The Faculty of Laws' Newsletter Editorial Board wishes to congratulate our colleague Patrick Galea, on his promotion to Associate Professor. This is considered to be very well deserved; it is also hoped that other members of staff whose applications for promotion are pending, will also soon receive news of a favourable outcome.

Have you got any news to share? If you have any item of relevance to this newsletter, feel free to inform us about it. You may contact any member of the editorial board, these being Prof Tonio Borg, Prof Ivan Sammut, Ms Rowena Leontijevic and Dr Ivan Mifsud. The Board reserves the right to refuse to publish an item submitted to it for its consideration.