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Edition

Faculty of Laws Newsletter

Issue
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Message from the Dean

A year ago, we published our first Faculty Newsletter; we experimented with formats for a while, until we settled with the current format which has so far proven to be comfortable and practical. I hope that this newsletter is serving its purpose, which is that of keeping in touch with you, filling you in with news, including about upcoming events and important decisions taken. So, as the newsletter celebrates its first anniversary, apart from wishing you a prosperous new academic year, which academic year promises to be full of hard work and challenges, I am pleased to make the first announcement for this year, this being that once again we will be organising a visit to the Institutions. Last year we visited the Court of Justice of the European Union, this year we will be visiting the European Parliament in Brussels.



If you wish to join us on this visit, please send an email to Professor Ivan Sammut (ivan.sammuto@um.edu.mt) informing us of your intentions, and get down to booking a seat on KM420 with return on KM421. **Everybody is welcome to join us in Brussels between Thursday 30th November 2023 and Saturday 1st December 2023.** The trip is intentionally short in order to not be particularly disruptive from our extremely busy schedules, and from our families too.

Apart from visiting the European Parliament, we will do some siteseeing and also eat at some good restaurants. Last year's event proved to not only be a very good learning opportunity, but also an excellent teambuilding exercise; this year's should be no different.

Message from the Faculty Manager

What follows is a reproduction, for your records, of an extremely important email which was sent to you recently:

POSTPONEMENT OF LECTURES

It would be appreciated if the respective course secretary (details below) and the Head of Department are informed of any postponed lectures in a timely manner to allow timetables to be updated and students informed in good time. Furthermore, you are kindly requested not to liaise with students about any rescheduled/ postponed/ additional lectures but to contact the course secretary directly.

The relevant contact details for each course are as follows:

Bachelor of Laws (Honours) / Higher Diploma of Legal Procurator

Alexia Attard - alexia.attard@um.edu.mt - 2340 2836/3460/3144

Ryan Grech - ryan.grech@um.edu.mt - 2340 3144/2836/4360

Diploma in the Laws of Procedure

Ryan Grech - ryan.grech@um.edu.mt - 2340 3144/2836/4360

Master of Advocacy / Master of Notarial Studies

Matthew Spiteri - matthew.spiteri@um.edu.mt - 2340 6134

Master of Arts in Financial Services

Brenda Borg - brenda.borg@um.edu.mt - 2340 3204

Master of Laws in European Business Law / European and Comparative Law

Michela Brincat - michela.brincat@um.edu.mt - 2340 2786

Master of Arts in Human Rights Law and Practice

Celine Agius - celine.agius@um.edu.mt - 2340 3752

Master of Arts in International Law

Emilia De Martino - emilia.demartino@um.edu.mt - 2340 3688

Master of Arts in Law

Alexia Attard - alexia.attard@um.edu.mt - 2340 2836/3460/3144

SUBMISSION OF SEM1 ASSIGNMENTS

The deadline for submission of SEM1 assignments is Monday 15th January 2024 (or any submission prior to the 15th January 2024 as indicated by the lecturer). Students are being advised to submit their final version of the assignment on VLE by not later than 23:59 hrs.

No extension will be granted beyond the due date unless a valid justification (of an unpredictable and/or non-academic nature) be submitted to the Faculty/Dean prior to the submission deadline.

Furthermore, no wrong uploaded assignment will be replaced for examination purposes and a 0F will be awarded. A non-submission on VLE will also be awarded a 0F.

REVISION WEEK SEM1

The revision week icw SEM1 study-units assessed by means of an examination will be held between 15th-19th January 2024. Any lecture held during this week may only be used for the purpose of revision, with no new material to be presented. This revision lecture is optional and should not be held if there is no real scope for it. If this lecture will be held, you are kindly requested to inform the respective course secretary and the Head of Department so that it may be included in the timetable. If held, this lecture should not turn into a discussion on what to study and what exam questions might likely come up or to disclose what specific topics students should specifically focus on.

Obviously, no individual student or group of students should be given preferential treatment, and any queries about the study-unit and the format of the examination paper or assignment should all be cleared during normal lectures. Personal and direct communication with lecturers in an attempt to obtain hints and directions regarding the content of the examination paper is not acceptable and will be reported. Any queries and approaches of this nature, by whatever means, should not be entertained and should be immediately discontinued and reported to the Dean.

RESULTS SEM1

The Assessment Criteria document should be used by all the respective Boards of Examiners for all Study-Units in connection with the examination process for both assignments and examinations in addition to the model answer.

Overall marks of 43% and 44% awarded to study-units (including those which consist of different components) should be reviewed once again by the respective Board of Examiners prior to publication. Whether the mark may be revised to a 45% or be decreased further will remain at the Board of Examiners' discretion, however this must be a minuted decision and not arbitrary.

Many thanks for your cooperation as always.

Rowena

Book presentation to H.E. The President

Dr Daniel Bianchi recently presented a copy of his latest publication *Medical Law in Malta*, to His Excellency Dr George Vella, President of Malta.



On the occasion, His Excellency the President congratulated Dr Bianchi and highlighted the importance of this research work, which serves to educate healthcare professionals in the laws that regulate the medical profession in Malta.

The Newsletter Editorial Board takes the opportunity to also extend its congratulations to Dr Bianchi, and reminds our Readers that copies of Dr Bianchi's work are available from Kluwer Law International <https://kluwerlawonline.com/EncyclopediaChapter/IEL+Medical+Law/MEDI20220001> .

Annual get together at Mt St Joseph House of Retreat

On Friday 15th September the Faculty of Laws held its second pre-academic year get-together at Mt St Joseph Retreat House, on which occasion we discussed certain developments and plans for the forthcoming academic year, including our mixed experience with student feedback and with revisions of papers, and developments where concerns the planned Faculty of Laws' journal.

Concerning the journal, at time of writing we are in talks with a potential sponsor and eagerly looking forward to their reply in order to continue with the said project.

Given that the production and publication of the Faculty of Laws' journal will cost us €10,000 per annum (because we will be contracting out all work apart from editorial and collection of articles) it is imperative to secure funding. Although the Faculty of Laws already has the funds for the first year, we are in talks with a particular entity to which we proposed a four year sponsorship, in order to ensure that funding is secured for the foreseeable future.

At the same event Prof Ivan Sammut spoke about latest developments within UMASA, including the rejection by members present and voting at a recent meeting, of the proposed Manual of Procedures which manual would have *inter alia* raised retirement ages for all grades of Resident Academics except Full Professors who on the other hand would have been transferred to part-time employment at the age of 75; this last was the reason for the rejection of the Manual with one particular Professor (not from the Faculty of Laws) accusing the University of trying to put him out to graze as if he had no more to offer.

We also had a number of guest speakers, namely Professor Adrian Gellel from the Faculty of Education whose talk on *Teaching Young Adult Undergraduate Students* was very well received, the reality being that it is very rare that anybody offers us advice on how to approach and engage with our students; the second group of guest speakers were Pro Rector Professor Frank Bezzina and Dr Jacqueline Vanhear, Senior Executive, Quality Support Unit who delivered a very engaging and interesting presentation on the upcoming Periodical Programme Review to which the Faculty of Laws will be subjected during this Academic Year (2023-24), on ranking of Universities and also about the importance of Academics taking the correct steps to give publicity and prominence to their research.

Like last year, this event was opened up to all fulltimers. However this time we opened up the event a bit further, to test the waters and see how interested part-timers and casuals are in attending such an event. Given the positive reaction from the invitees, resources permitting we will plan to extend invitations yet further next year and beyond.

Next year's event will be held on Friday 13th September 2024.

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.