

Faculty of Laws

Newsletter

Important reminder from the Dean

When I first joined the UM as a Resident Academic, Prof Kevin Aquilina told me that whenever I went abroad, including during recess, I had to fill in the 'leave of absence form' which today is available online from <https://www.um.edu.mt/hrmd/secure/personnelrecords/AcademicLeaveform.pdf>. At the time, I did not understand why this was necessary, my reasoning being that 'holidays' (as I thought recess time to be) were precisely so, but I followed his instructions. Nine years later, apart from the fact that at Senate meetings we are often reminded that full time Resident Academics are to fill in their leave forms, I have come to understand why we must fill in this form, even during recess. The reason is that 'recess' at UM means 'no lectures'; staff are not 'on holiday' unless they book vacation leave, hence the need to fill in said form, especially when travelling. Myself, I have taken to filling in this form even when not travelling, so that 'recess' (or part of it) will be converted to 'actual holidays'; I have actually written as reason for absence that 'I am not travelling but I want a break from email and phone calls'. Nobody has ever objected to this, let alone disapproved by application; nor has anybody ever told me that I have exhausted my leave entitlement. That way I have been able to switch off my mobile and to not reply to emails during my holidays.

Briefly put, there is absolutely no reason for one to not fill in the form in question, whether during recess or otherwise, even if we are travelling on UM-related business. On the contrary, apart from it being our obligation as UM full time resident academics to fill this form, a situation may arise where one may find themselves having to justify for example, why they were unable to attend a particular meeting or why they did not reply to an important email. One cannot simply say 'it was holiday time' because to be on justified absence from UM one has to fill in the Leave Form.

Holding of Board of Studies meetings

Faculty Manager Ms Rowena Leontijevic wishes to remind us that for each course offered a Board of Studies meeting is to be held once every semester. By the end of the semester the meeting must have been held, all minutes prepared and uploaded to the UM Repository.

Recent meeting on projects

In early November Ms Sarah Albanozzo was invited to a meeting with the Faculty of Laws' Heads of Department, to speak about what possibilities exist where EU and national project and funding opportunities are concerned. The underlying message was that if anybody has an idea for a project, they may discuss possible solutions with Ms Albanozzo, who may be reached via email on sarah.albanozzo@um.edu.mt.

Visit to the Court of Justice of the European Union



The visit to the CJEU announced in the October newsletter took place on Friday 25th November. Those who replied to Prof Ivan Sammut booked flights and hotel and proceeded as planned, to Luxembourg. We were greeted and shown around the premises, followed part of an actual, ongoing case, and held meetings with various dignitaries including Judge Professor Eugene Buttigieg who even hosted the delegation to lunch, and Mr Joe Izzo Clarke, Head of the Maltese Translation Unit. This event proved to be not only extremely interesting and informative, but also served as a valuable teambuilding exercise.

Book launches

Professor Frances Camilleri Cassar launched the second edition of ‘Academic Research Methods for the Law Student: A Practical Guide’, which second edition includes inter alia the OSCOLA guide for Maltese Law Students prepared by the GhSL. Proceeds from the sale of this book will go to the Student Solidarity Fund.

Forthcoming book launch: On 7th December at 18.30 at San Anton Palace, Professor Tonio Borg will be formally launching the second edition of ‘A Commentary on the Constitution of Malta’ published by Kite. Anybody interested in attending should send their request as soon as possible to tonio.borg@um.edu.mt.

Season’s Greetings

The members of the Faculty of Laws’ newsletter coordination committee (Dr Ivan Mifsud, Prof Tonio Borg, Prof Ivan Sammut and Ms Rowena Leontijevic) send you their best wishes for Christmas and for 2023.