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# Faculty of Laws Newsletter

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## Message from the Dean

With the exams over, things are rather quiet at the moment. Of course, by 'quiet' I do not mean that we are idle; indeed we are anything but idle. We are all very busy scrambling to finish our corrections to as much as possible meet the deadline of publishing all results by 15th July 2024. Or as close as possible to this. At time of writing of this newsletter, I am informed most results will indeed be out by that date. I really would like to thank all of you for the efforts you have made and indeed are still making to help us reach this target.

You will also have noticed that works are underway at the Faculty of Laws. The corridor tiles are being replaced, and the office doors will also be replaced over the coming weeks. The corridors will also be re-painted. We had asked for more extensive works but the response is that there are no funds for this; on the other hand we did not ask for fire doors to be fitted, but we were lumped with them; no less than four are being fitted on the ground and another four at first floor (to be in line with the second floor). Unfortunately these were imposed on us, and even more unfortunate is the fact that I for one was told a few months ago that these had to be installed, but was not informed where exactly they will be installed or indeed how many will be fitted; as a result the recently installed mural on the left hand side (opposite the books showcase) is going to fall victim of these fire doors and must be sacrificed in the interest of health and safety; even the show case of our publications is going to be negatively affected. On the plus side, works are progressing very quickly and with relatively little inconvenience, and the Faculty should look a little bit nicer as a result. In the meantime for the duration of the works, Admin Staff have moved to Room 317 (the Board Room) when not working remotely; but within a few weeks if the current pace of work is kept, they should be back in their offices as usual.

Apart from corrections, there is surprisingly little going on at the moment, which is reflected in the dearth of items to report in this newsletter. We do have a lot of plans, but everything seems to be on hold, with top priority being given to

corrections and publication of results. I for one, am waiting for quite a few things to happen, including meeting the publishers of the Faculty journal (we are waiting for them to give us a meeting to discuss specifics), the plans for re-considering our courses (this definitely has to wait until after the corrections and most probably will prove impossible to coordinate owing to peoples' July and August travel plans). I am also working on what might seem like a triviality but which I consider to be very important: although this was a suggestion made to me by Dr Stefano Filletti, I agreed with it and have been lobbying for the UM to allow us to engage a professional salesperson to promote and sell the courses we offer, on commission basis. I for one am of a firm belief that with the right person engaged specifically to sell our MA Mediation, Financial Services, AML, etc., we will not only boost numbers of students but will also contribute to the UM's general financial wellbeing. While it is true that the UM has a centralised marketing office, and I am not in any way trying to cast doubt on the quality of their work, my argument is that the UM marketing office has to focus on the larger picture, whereas we need somebody to focus specifically on the Faculty of Laws' courses. At time of writing, I can report that I have raised the matter with the UM Rector, who replied that he will discuss this proposal with senior management. I am waiting for a reply and will follow it up; having said that I have discarded a suggestion made to me at a recent Deans' meeting that we should promote the courses ourselves. I am after somebody with the correct skill set and disposition towards this work, but regrettably without the green light from superiors within the UM structure, cannot proceed.

Another item requiring resolution is the question of lack of space. If it were not enough that office space is highly inadequate both for Admin and for Academic members of staff, we are now facing another issue as a direct result of the fact that UM is only open until 13.30 during summer. Our foreign students are asking us to offer them space from where to work and study not just in the mornings, but also in the afternoons. In my opinion this is a very reasonable request; if it were up to me I would resolve it by scrapping half days completely (and compensate our administrative staff by shortening the winter hours somewhat thus striking a better balance which works all the year round).

## **EU & Comparative Law Department at FIDE (International Federation of European Law)**

Prof Ivan Sammut and Dr Oleks Pastukov from the Department of European and Comparative Law represented the University of Malta at the FIDE Steering Committee meeting, which was held recently in Katowice, Poland. The main item on the Agenda was next year's FIDE Congress to be held in Katowice in May 2025.



The FIDE Congress is the main bi-annual conference on European law, organised with the support of the Court of Justice of the European Union. It will be hosted by the city of Katowice and the University of Silesia. For more information about the 2025 Congress, please consult <https://www.fide-europe.org/congresses/next-congress/>

**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.