

**University of Malta
Gender Issues Committee
Annual Progress Report
Academic Year 2016-2017**

Members

During the academic year 2016-17 there were little changes to the composition of the Gender Issues Committee (GIC). Mr Pierre Cassar replaced Ms Patricia Camilleri. The Committee Secretary, Ms Isabelle Camilleri resigned and was replaced by Ms Simone Ellul. Ms Stephanie Dalli was nominated as KSU Representative on the GIC.

The members on the GIC were:

Prof. M.T. Camilleri Podestà – Chairperson (Faculty of Medicine & Surgery)
Dr Andrew Azzopardi – Member (Faculty of Education)
Dr Ruben Paul Borg – Member (Faculty for the Build Environment)
Dr Josette Farrugia – Member (Faculty of Education)
Dr Ruth Farrugia – Member (Faculty of Law)
Dr Gorg Mallia – Member (Faculty of Media & Knowledge Science)
Ms Carmen Borg – Member (Department of IT, Junior College)
Prof Janet Mifsud – Member (Faculty of Medicine & Surgery)
Prof Emmanuel Sinagra – Member (Faculty of Science)
Mr Pierre Cassar – Member (Marketing, Communications & Alumni Office)
Ms Simone Ellul- Secretary (started 21st March 2017)
Ms Stephanie Dalli- Student representative (From KSU)

A short profile of the incumbent members has been included in the Appendix of this document.

Meetings During the academic year 2016-17 were held on the following dates:

- November 22nd, 2016
- January 10th, 2017
- February 14th, 2017
- March 21st, 2017
- April 11th, 2017
- May 9th, 2017
- June 13th, 2017
- July 12th, 2017

Committee meetings start with the reading of the minutes of the previous GIC meeting, followed by a discussion of the items on the meeting's agenda. Salient items on the agenda were:

1. Better lighting on campus
2. The GIC Symposium in celebration of International Women's Day 2017
3. A survey on Safety on Campus
4. A survey on Mainstreaming in the Medical Curricula
5. Mentoring Scheme

Apart from the monthly Committee meetings, the Chairperson and the Secretary met for several informal meetings so as to discuss the progress of the initiatives and events organised by the GIC.

Events & Initiatives

The following is a succinct description of the main activities and initiatives undertaken by the GIC during the academic year 2016-17.

1. GIC Symposium in celebration of International Women's Day 2017

The GIC Symposium in celebration of International Women's Day 2017 was held on Thursday 26th April 2016 at MAKS building seminar room. The event was entitled "Gender Mainstreaming in University Curricula". The programme was as follows:

09:15 Registration and Coffee

09:45 Introduction by *Dr Carmen Sammut, Pro-Rector for Student and Staff Affairs and Outreach*

10:00 Keynote speech

"A systematic approach to integrate Sex and Gender Medicine and Gender perspectives in medical education curricula" by *Sabine Ludwig, responsible for Gender and Diversity in Medical Education at the Charite, Berlin, Germany.*

10:40 "Gender in Education : Individual discretion versus mainstreaming" by *Prof. Mary Darmanin, Department of Education Studies, Faculty of Education, University of Malta.*

11:00 "Making technology education appeal to females"

Dr Sarah Pule, Department of Technology and Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Education, University of Malta

11:20 "Establishing a mainstream Gender Studies, Gendered Subjects – access for all"

Dr Brenda Murphy, Department of Gender Studies, Faculty for Social Wellbeing.

11:40 Closing speech by *Prof. M.T. Camilleri Podestà*

2. The Gender Issues Committee conducting a survey, among members of staff and students, on Personal Safety on Campus. The aim of the questionnaire was to explore ways to make Campus a safer place.

Participation at Meetings & Seminars / Conferences

The following is a list of initiatives undertaken and seminars / conferences attended by members on the GIC:

- 25th January 2017 - Prof. Camilleri Podesta attended a meeting in the Council boardroom organised by the Department of Gender Studies.
- 13th February 2017 – Meeting with Dr Carmen Sammut, Pro-Rector, Students and Staff Affairs and Outreach.
- 20th February 2017 - Meeting with Prof. Joseph M Cacciottolo, Pro-Rector, Academic Affairs.

- 8th March 2017 – Prof. Camilleri Podesta was part of the panel in a discussion organised by NCPE on Media and Stereotypes at Dar Qalb ta' Gesu, St. Venera.
- 11th March 2017 - Prof. Camilleri Podesta was part of the panel in a discussion organised by Womens Right Foundation in Pjazza San Gorg, Valletta.
- 14th March 2017 to 16th March 2017 – Prof. Camilleri Podesta attended a Femicide conference at Valletta Campus (Final event of Cost action).
- 21st March 2017 – Prof. Camilleri Podesta attended a meeting in the boardroom of the Faculty of Laws regarding a Human Rights programme appointed by Senate.
- 2nd May 2017 – NCPE Annual Conference at Dar Qalb ta' Gesu, St. Venera.
- 10th May 2017 – Brown Bag Seminar at Fema Building presented by Dr Brenda Murphy.

Appendix Profiles:

Prof. Marie Therese Camilleri Podestà has occupied the post of Chairperson of the Gender Issues Committee since 2006 and was the first female to be appointed full professor with the University in 1981. Prof. Camilleri Podesta works within the Department of Anatomy at the University of Malta and is involved in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching as well as in research. She regularly takes part in conferences on gender and education and has been asked to sit on various panels locally in connection with gender issues. She also sits on various committees including the ACCESS committee, the University Research Ethics Committee as well as the Faculty Admissions Committee and the Faculty Board. The Gender Issues Committee was appointed by the council of the University in 1991 to act as a focal point on issues of gender equality. The committee works on several areas including the identification of sources of unequal opportunities or treatment with respect to gender and promotes a policy of equal opportunity. It has also set up a mentoring scheme for students and liaises closely with the sexual Harassment advisors. Last year the Gender Issues Committee embarked on a programme of Gender Mainstreaming within various faculties of the university and proposes to launch a questionnaire for all faculties to determine the extent of commitment to this aim.

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Malta. His lecturing & research focus on inclusive education, sociology, critical pedagogy, disability politics, and youth & community studies. He has published extensively in the field of disability studies and inclusive education. He is a Member of the Editorial Panel of the highly acclaimed International Journal of Inclusive Education and has edited a special edition called Creating Inclusive Communities. He has contributed extensively in a number of other applauded journals. Azzopardi has published the following texts; Career guidance for persons with disability (2008) (JP Advertising), Reading stories of inclusion – Engaging with different perspectives towards an agenda for inclusion (2009), Understanding disability politics in Malta (2009) (VDM Verlag Dr. Müller), Young people in Gozo – A study 2 (2011) (Artwork Publications) and Roots to Inclusive Education – A Question of Wellbeing (2012) (LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, Germany). He is the Co-Editor of Inclusive communities: A critical reader (2012) (Sense Publishers). Azzopardi has also edited Youth: Responding to lives - An international reader (2013) (Sense Publishers).

Dr. Ruben Paul Borg is Senior Lecturer at the Faculty for the Built Environment, University of Malta. He studied Architecture and Civil Engineering at the University of Malta and read for a Specialisation in Structural Engineering and Reinforced Concrete Structures at the Politecnico di Milano, Italy and a Ph.D. in Materials Engineering and Sustainable Concrete at the University of Sheffield, UK. He has also been collaborating on research and lecturing as a visiting academic at the Technical University of Milan (Politecnico di Milano) Italy since 2004. Dr. Borg has participated in and coordinated a number of European funded and International Research Projects on materials engineering, sustainable construction, structural vulnerability and disaster resilience. He was appointed chairman of the European Council of Civil Engineers for Knowledge and Technology; board member of the International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment; member of the European CEN TC350: Sustainable Construction. He was appointed as Malta's representative of the Institution of Civil Engineers, UK in 2013. He is also a member of the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples of Malta, member of the Executive Board of the Building Industry Consultative Council (BICC) Malta and Coordinator for Research and Innovation in Construction, and member of the Structural Eurocodes Technical Committee, MCCA Malta. He is co-founder and President of Sustainable Built Environment (SBE) Malta, which aims at promoting sustainable development. Dr Borg participates in international research fora on materials engineering, sustainable construction and structural vulnerability and resilience of cultural heritage, and has published widely in these fields.

Dr Josette Farrugia holds a B.Ed (Hons) from the University of Malta and a Ph.D from the University of York. She has taught Chemistry at secondary and postsecondary level for a number of years. She has also worked as Principal Subject Area Officer for Sciences with the Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate Examinations Board of the University of Malta (MATSEC) and is currently a Senior Lecturer in Science Education with the Department of Mathematics, Science and Technical Education of the Faculty of Education at the University of Malta. Her research interests are related to various aspects of science education and educational assessment and include problem solving; practical work and investigations; school-based assessment; students' understanding of scientific ideas and concepts especially those related to chemistry; and inquiry-based learning. She has participated in conferences and published work related to science education and educational assessment.

Dr Ruth Farrugia is an advocate and senior lecturer in the Faculty of Laws at the University of Malta. She studied at the University of Malta, University of Strasbourg and Metropolitan Ecclesiastical Tribunal. She is a former consultant to the deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Social Policy, the Social Affairs Committee in Parliament and United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). She has been chairperson of the Children Care Orders Board and drafted the Children Act, Commissioner for Children Act and Gender Equality Act. Dr Farrugia is currently expert to the Council of Europe Human Rights and Legal Affairs Division, legal advisor to the Malta Commissioner for Children, country expert to the Comparative European Family Law Commission and the Common Core in Family Law Group and has recently been appointed to the PRMIII Experts Group of the European Commission. She has published widely in the field of family law, child law, asylum and human rights.

Dr Gorg Mallia is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences, University of Malta. He has a B.A.(Hons) in English Literature and an M.A. in Communications, both from the University of Malta, and a Ph.D. in Instructional Technology, from the University of Sheffield, UK. He specialises in Print and Presentation Media, Personal Communications, Personal Branding, and Instructional Design and Technology (particularly Transfer of Learning). He has recently also been researching the use of Social Networking in education (The Social Classroom: Integrating Social Network Use in Education, that he edited, was published by IGI Global, of Hershey, PA, USA, in 2014). He is also researching and lecturing in graphic narrative and storytelling. Dr Mallia is also a children's book writer, illustrator and cartoonist. He was the chairman of the National Book Council between 2005 and 2013.

Ms Carmen Borg is a senior lecturer in the Department of Computing and IT at the Junior College Msida and has been teaching computing and IT since 1995. She studied Computer Science at the University of the State of New York, USA. In 1985 she co-founded the first courses in Computing at Gian Frangisk Abela, New Lyceum, and two years later was given approval by the University Of Oxford Delegacy Of Local Examinations to prepare and present candidates for 'O' level Computer Studies and 'A' level Computer Science. She was subsequently appointed examiner by the Director of Education to conduct the Final Examination in Office Practice at the then Secretarial School. She developed and conducted computing in-service courses for Teachers organised by the Department of Education and was involved in the development and lecturing of courses in Computer Applications organised by the Faculty of Education of the University of Malta. On various occasions she provided consultancy and training to local companies, on how to set up Information Systems for their organisation

Prof Janet Mifsud B. Pharm. (Hons), Ph.D. (QUB) is a member of the Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Malta. She was appointed the Commissioner, National Commission for the Promotion of Equality for Men and Women between 2004 and 2010 and has represented Malta at several gender EU, UN and EuroMed policy meetings. She has been active in the gender and science field for several years. She has been invited by EU DG Research to attend Women in Science Fora held in Brussels, and she has also been appointed several times expert evaluator for proposals submitted under the Quality of Life and Marie Curie Actions FP5, FP6 key actions and FP7 calls. Locally, she has chaired the Gender Issues Committee for the University of Malta and was previously a member of the Public Service Commission. Dr Mifsud has published extensively in the area of the therapeutic management of neurological disorders especially epilepsy. She was Secretary for the European Epilepsy Academy and is presently Vice-President for the International Bureau for Epilepsy.

Dr Marceline Naudi received her first degree from University of Malta (1980), her Master's Degree in Women's Studies from University of Bradford (U.K.) (1990) and her Doctorate (in Social Work) from Manchester University (U.K.) (2004). A social worker by profession, her years of practice (in England, Ireland and Malta) has included work with children and young people in care and their families, ex-offenders, homeless people, persons with mental health support needs and survivors of domestic violence. She is currently Head of the Department of Gender Studies. Dr Naudi also contributes to teaching within several other University departments and Faculties on gender issues, violence against women and other anti-oppressive issues (sexual orientation, race, disabilities) at both Bachelor and Master level. She is also active in the issues of women's rights, and

domestic violence, as well as wider equal opportunity issues, and as such has convened, chaired and presented at many conferences, seminars and meetings, both locally and abroad. She represented Malta at the Council of Europe ad Hoc Committee on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CAHVIO) which drafted the Istanbul Convention, and has recently been elected onto its monitoring body, the GREVIO. In a voluntary capacity she has supported and acted as consultant to various agencies in the field of violence against women, gender, LGBTIQ, racism and ethnicity. She also sits on the Women against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network Board, and the European Women's Lobby (EWL) Observatory on Violence against Women Strategy Group.

Prof Emmanuel Sinagra graduated from the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1986 with a B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Chemistry with Environmental Science. In the same year he was awarded a Science and Engineering Research Council grant to enable him to do a M.Sc. course in Surfaces and Colloids. After obtaining his M.Sc. in 1987, he was awarded a studentship by Exxon Chemicals to assist him in his studies for a Ph.D. which he obtained in December 1992. During 1992, Prof. Sinagra was employed with the University of Bristol as a Research Associate on a project supported by British Nuclear Fuels. In 1993, Prof. Sinagra joined the Department of Chemistry at the University of Malta as lecturer in 1993, became senior lecturer in 1998 and recently became associate professor in 2011. His teaching interests have been in the areas of physical chemistry, polymer chemistry as well as environmental chemistry. Prof. Sinagra has tutored a number of students doing research at undergraduate and postgraduate level. He has been head of the Department of Chemistry since 2008 and deputy dean of the Faculty of Science since 2009. Prof. Sinagra is also Chairman of the Faculty of Science M.Sc. Committee as well as the Faculty's Doctoral Committee.

Mr Pierre Cassar was appointed Director of Marketing, Communications and Alumni at the University of Malta in September 2016. He graduated with a B.A (Hons) in Communications Studies from the University of Malta in 1994 and also holds a Master's Degree from the University of Leicester. Recently he completed a Diploma in the Laws of Procedure from the University of Malta. From 2009 until mid-2016 Pierre acted as the Chief Executive Officer of the Malta Broadcasting Authority and represented Malta on the international regulatory level in Brussels and beyond. He has for many years been active in sports journalism and managed Campus FM between 1997 and 2001.

Ms Simone Ellul started working at the University of Malta in February 2015, five years after graduating from B.Psy (Hons). She is presently responsible for the running of the main campus office of the University of the Third Age. She is also the secretary of the Gender Issues Committee.