

University of Malta
Gender Issues Committee
Annual Progress Report
Academic Year 2017-2018

Members

During the academic year 2017-18 there were some changes to the composition of the Gender Issues Committee (GIC). Dr Ruth Farrugia resigned from the GIC while Dr Marceline Naudi has been appointed member of the GIC. Furthermore, Ms Carla Galea, KSU President, was nominated as KSU Representative on the GIC.

The members on the GIC were:

Prof. Marie Therese Camilleri Podestà – Chairperson (Faculty of Medicine & Surgery)
Dr Marceline Naudi – Member (Faculty of Social Wellbeing)
Dr Andrew Azzopardi – Member (Faculty of Social Wellbeing)
Dr Ruben Paul Borg – Member (Faculty for the Build Environment)
Dr Josette Farrugia – Member (Faculty of Education)
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
Ms Carla Galea - Student representative (KSU)

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

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

- 28th September 2017
- 26th October 2017
- 28th November 2017
- 25th January 2018
- 1st March 2018
- 12th April 2018
- 24th May 2018
- 27th June 2018

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. Safety on Campus (<https://app.smartsurvey.co.uk/survey/results/id/325263>)
2. Mentoring Scheme
3. Public talk on 'Science and Gender'
4. Grant on Gender Workshop from the Association of Commonwealth Universities
5. Two day workshop on 'Gender Mainstreaming in the University Curricula' for Women's Day 2018

6. Debate with the Malta Group of Professional Engineering Institutions
7. Launch of Facebook page
8. Planning of 'Centenary Celebration' as part of Women's Day 2019

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 description of the main activities and initiatives undertaken by the GIC during the academic year 2017-18.

1. Session on Women and Science

The Gender Issues Committee together with the Department of Gender Studies hosted a session on Women in Science titled 'From folding to FRS: Navigating a career in science' delivered by Professor Sheena Radford on the 25th October 2017 from 1400hrs to 1500hrs at the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences (MAKS). An interview with Prof. Radford can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1RQeGstRgo

2. Two day workshop on 'Introduction to Gender Mainstreaming in University Curricula and Research' for Women's Day 2018

This workshop was organized by both the Gender Issues Committee and the Department of Gender Studies with the support of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). The two day workshop was led by Dr Sabine Ludwig and was held on Thursday 22nd March and Friday 23rd March 2018 at MAKS building seminar room. The programme was as follows:

Thursday, 22nd March 2018

- 08.30 Registration and Coffee
- 09.00 Gender Mainstreaming into the Curriculum
- 10.30 Coffee Break
- 11.00 Gender Mainstreaming in Research and in Research Proposals

Friday, 23d March 2018

- 09.00 Gender-sensitive Didactics
- 10.30 Coffee Break
- 10.45 Gender Mainstreaming in Faculty Structures
- 11.45 Evaluation

A link to an interview with Dr Sabine Ludwig on Gender can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGNZ-dAZ1UE>

3. Debate on ‘Gender in Architecture and Engineering’

As part of the 200 year anniversary celebrations of the Institution of Civil Engineers ICE UK, the Malta Group of Professional Engineering Institutions representing the ICE in Malta, with the support of the ICE University of Malta Student Chapter, organised a Debate on ‘Gender in Architecture and Engineering’ in collaboration with the Gender Issues Committee of the University of Malta. This event was held on the 26th April 2018 at the Corinthia Palace Hotel and Spa, Attard and was moderated by Professor Marie Therese Camilleri Podesta.

Participation at Meetings & Seminars / Conferences

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

08/02/2018	Meeting with Pro rector re Mentoring
26 /02/2018	Meeting with Student Support Committee chaired by Dr. David Cassar re Mentoring
01/03/2018	COST action concluding conference on Femicide
05/03/2018	NCPE conference - Aula Magna, Old University Valletta Campus
08/03/2018	Malta Careers Day for Girls - Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta
29/05/2018	NCPE Annual Conference - Intercontinental Hotel, St. Julian's
04/07/2018	Round Table for Commissioners organised by the Human Rights Programme at University.
13/09/2018	Mentoring meeting
11/10/2018	Role and Importance of Women Directors in Male Dominated Boards - Life Sciences Park
02/11/2018	Burning Bikinis - film at American Embassy
27/11/2018	Stop Stigma - Mental Health Awareness - Mater Dei Hospital
15/12/2018	Seminar at Old University Valletta Campus- Advocating for Human Rights
2017-2018	Some Committee members also attended several meetings as members of the Human Rights Programme.

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, 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. 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. Camilleri Podest also forms part of the Review Board for the Foundation for the Well Being of Society.

Dr Marceline Naudi received her first degree from University of Malta (1980), her Masters Degree in Women's Studies from University of Bradford (U.K.) (1990) and her Doctorate from Manchester University (U.K.) (2004). A social worker by profession, her practice (in England, Ireland and Malta) 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 Head of the Department of Gender Studies and also contributes to teaching and supervision of student research within several other University Departments on gender issues, violence against women and other anti-oppressive issues (LGBTIQ, ethnicities, disabilities) at Diploma, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level. She continues to be active in the issues of gender equality and violence against women, as well as wider human rights issues, and has convened, chaired and presented at many conferences, seminars and meetings, both in Malta and Europe. 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 is now an elected member and 2nd vice-president of its Group of Experts, the GREVIO. She has supported and acted as consultant to various organisations in the field of violence against women, gender, LGBTIQ, racism and ethnicity, and sits on the boards of management of several NGOs. She also served as the Chairperson of the Commission on Domestic Violence (Malta) from 2006 to 2010 and as a member and Chairperson of the Gender Issues Committee of the University of Malta for many years. She currently sits on the Women against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network Board, and until recently on the European Women Lobby (EWL) Observatory on Violence against Women. She is a management committee member of the EU COST Action on Femicide across Europe and of the Action on Appearance Matters. Her current voluntary activity includes supporting the Jesuit Refugee Service and the Malta Gay Rights Movement, as well as member of the Review Board for the Foundation for the Well Being of Society.

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 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.

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 the Administrator of the University of the Third Age (U3A) and the co-ordinator of the Attard U3A Centre. She is also the secretary of the Gender Issues Committee.

Ms Carla Galea is a 22 year-old currently reading for a law degree. Throughout the past year she has served as the KSU Secretary General, and got elected along with the rest of the team, as President of KSU for the term 2018/2019.

Holding the role of Secretary General within the Council has enabled her to get a good insight as to how KSU works, since the role involves constant communication with the whole team. Having been elected as a student representative on the University of Malta Council, has enabled her to bridge the gap further between KSU and the University administration.

Her vision for this year is that the Council truly serves the purpose of being the students' voice, whilst continuing to build upon the solid foundations that the previous administration has set. KSU has always been and will always be there for every student it represents.

From her first University year, she has always strived to be active within different student organisations, as well as participating in their events as much as possible. Outside University, Carla was also one of the founders of an organisation which garnered popularity on a National scale. Such, enabled her to partake in varying experiences which provided a lot of exposure, and necessary experience in public speaking and debating.