



Associazione Lettori di Lingua Straniera in Italia  
Association of Foreign Lecturers in Italy

*"Equal citizens, equal rights, equal treatment"*

Via S. Vitale 7  
37129 VERONA  
Italy

tel & fax +39 045 8003408  
gsm +39 347 4297324  
[petried@sis.it](mailto:petried@sis.it)

## **For Sale? University of Padua**

**February 10, 2010**

text in English

**The University of Padua is bust.**

On Friday 29 January 2010 the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Padua, **Giuseppe Zaccaria**, sent a letter to all his staff and students saying he can't pay for the 12 years of arrears on salaries to 14 of his non-Italian teaching staff.



Il Magnifico Rettore, Università degli Studi di Padova, Giuseppe Zaccaria, Professor of General theory of Law.

The back-pay with interest amounts to 5 million 112.828 euros and was ordered by a Padua Labour court and subsequently confirmed by the Court of Appeal.

SEE: La Stampa and The Guardian 31.01.2010

[http://www.lastampa.it/\\_web/cmstp/tmplrubriche/scuola/grubrica.asp?ID\\_blog=60&ID\\_articolo=1273&ID\\_sezione=255&sezione](http://www.lastampa.it/_web/cmstp/tmplrubriche/scuola/grubrica.asp?ID_blog=60&ID_articolo=1273&ID_sezione=255&sezione)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jan/31/british-lecturers-italy-pay>

Anyone would think that the judgment – which provoked the Vice-Chancellor to call Friday’s “extraordinary” meeting of the Administrative board - was to deal with an recent unforeseen and unforeseeable emergency.

Not so. The Padua Labour court decision was taken almost four years ago, on 17 February 2006!

And don’t tell me the board failed to notice six judgments of the European Court of Justice – three of them from the region of Veneto where Zaccaria presides; three resolutions in the European Parliament and over one thousand court cases in over 20 Italian universities in the last twenty years.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasised that the decision to ask the Italian government to bail them out was taken ‘unanimously’ by the Administrative Board.

This plea would have been more convincing, and perhaps more effective, if it had it been accompanied by the unanimous decision of the Administrative Board to tender its resignation.

Evidently falling on one’s sword is no longer fashionable in these parts.

And what has the University done to mend its ways?

The arrears due cover only a period dating back from 1992 up until 2004.

The University of Padua has not updated the 14 foreigners’ salaries in accordance with the Court decision – thus leaving the door open to another law suit for arrears on wages, court costs and interest.

Should the Italian government ignore Padua’s plea – and similar ones coming from over twenty other Italian universities – then the Vice-Chancellor will have to consider going into receivership or selling off assets.

**Padua University’s Botanical Gardens**, dating back to 1545, would get him out of a hole as would selling off the furnishings done by Italy’s great architect and designer, **Gio Ponti**.

Newer Italian universities may not be in so fortunate a position

\* \* \*