



Committee for the Evaluation of Archaeology Study Programs

**Bar-Ilan University
The Faculty of Jewish Studies
The Land of Israel and Archaeology Department
Evaluation Report**

November 2011

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Chapter 1: Background

The Council for Higher Education (CHE) decided to evaluate study programs in the field of Archaeology during the academic year 2010 – 2011.

Following the decision of the CHE, the Minister of Education, who serves ex officio as a Chairperson of the CHE, appointed a Committee consisting of:

- **Prof. Charles Stanish, Cotsen Institute of Archeology, University of California, USA– Committee Chair**
- **Prof. Susan Alcock, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology, Brown University, USA**
- **Prof. Ofer Bar-Yosef, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, USA**
- **Prof. Manfred Bietak, Vienna Institute of Archaeological Science (VIAS), University of Vienna, and Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria**
- **Prof. Margalit Finkelberg, Department of Classics, Tel Aviv University, Israel**
- **Prof. Amihai Mazar, Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel**
- **Dr. Melinda A. Zeder, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, USA**

Ms. Alisa Elon, Coordinator of the Committee on behalf of the CHE.

Within the framework of its activity, the Committee was requested to:

1. Examine the self-evaluation reports, submitted by the institutions that provide study programs in Archaeology, and to conduct on-site visits at those institutions.
2. Submit to the CHE an individual report on each of the evaluated academic units and study programs, including the Committee's findings and recommendations.
3. Submit to the CHE a general report regarding the examined field of study within the Israeli system of higher education including recommendations for standards in the evaluated field of study.

The Committee's letter of appointment is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The entire process was conducted in accordance with the CHE's Guidelines for Self-Evaluation (of October 2009).

Chapter 2: Committee Procedures

The Committee held its first meetings on February 15, 2011 during which it discussed fundamental issues concerning higher education in Israel, the quality assessment activity, as well as Archaeology study programs.

The Committee held two cycles of visits; the first cycle in February 2011 and the second in May 2011.

During the visits, the Committee met with various stakeholders at the institutions, including management, faculty, staff, and students.

This report deals with Archaeology studies in the Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology at Bar-Ilan University.

The Committee's visit to Bar-Ilan University took place on May 16-17, 2011. The Committee thanks the management of Bar-Ilan University and the Land of Israel and Archaeology Department for their self-evaluation report and for their hospitality towards the Committee during its visit at the institution.

The schedule of the visit, including the list of participants from the institution, is attached as **Appendix 2.**

Chapter 3: Evaluation of Archaeology studies at the Land of Israel and Archaeology Department

- *This Report relates to the situation current at the time of the visit to the institution, and does not take account of any subsequent changes. We did add a brief addendum regarding some recent developments in the Department's relationship with the Weizmann Institute. The Report records the conclusions reached by the Evaluation Committee based on the documentation provided by the institution, information gained through interviews, discussion and observation as well as other information available to the Committee.*

The Land of Israel and Archaeology Department is a unique, interdisciplinary entity that brings together the field of geography, history, and archaeology in the study of the Land of Israel. The Council of Higher Education, however, has charged this committee with the evaluation archaeology studies in the Israeli higher education system. Given this mandate, and our collective expertise in various branches of archaeology, our evaluation of this department focuses on the status of archaeology studies within this unique department.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of the Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology at Bar-Ilan University is a high functioning unit with a unique and well-realized mission that serves both its students and the overall mission of its host university. In large measure the department succeeds blending together history, geography, and archaeology into an integrated study program focusing on the Land of Israel both past and present. The archaeological component of the Department (which is the focus of this report) is led by a small but outstanding senior faculty that has high levels of scholarly achievement and that work cooperatively and effectively to provide students at all levels with as comprehensive a background and training in archaeology.

Even recognizing the unique interdisciplinary nature of this Department, the archaeology component (comprised of two biblical archaeologists, two classical archaeologists, and three

archaeological scientists) is too small to accomplish its mission of providing its students with a comprehensive training in the archaeology of Israel. Additional lines in later periods and in prehistory are needed to accomplish these goals.

The integration of the most recent addition to the Department, the Bar-Ilan University/Weizmann Institute of Sciences collaborative program in archaeological sciences, does not seem to have been fully realized at this point. This is especially true of the undergraduate program, which has failed to attract undergraduate majors. The graduate level program in archaeological sciences, which offers both financial support and the extensive laboratory facilities of the Weizmann's Kimmel Center to its students, seems to be faring much better. This Committee believes that this new component is a valuable asset to the Department, its students, and to the University. We encourage the Department, the University, and the program partners at the Weizmann Institute to continue working to more fully realize the benefits this program brings the study program and research mission of the Department.

Finally, we believe that the Department's infrastructural support for archaeology is grossly inadequate. Archaeologists in the Department are running major research projects that supply financial support and training to students, garner large amounts of external funding, and bring international recognition to the University. The shabby, cramped, and scattered offices and research laboratories currently allocated to Departmental archaeological activities does these individuals, and ultimately the University, a great disservice. New or reallocated, contiguous space, equipped with modern laboratory facilities would both recognize these accomplishments and help the University showcase this vibrant unit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The archaeology component of the Department is seriously understaffed. A new faculty line in post-Byzantine times (Islamic, Crusaders, Medieval, and Ottoman) is particularly needed. An additional line in prehistoric/proto-historic archaeology would also benefit this program.
2. The Committee urges the Department, the University, and the program partners at the Weizmann Institute to continue working to better integrate the archaeological sciences component into its study program, especially at the undergraduate level. The

establishment of teaching labs, the addition of a third year seminar option in archaeological sciences, and the greater attention to integrating elements of archaeological sciences into introductory classes might all help in this regard.

3. The Department should work to counter a tendency toward inbreeding in both the composition of their student body and in their hiring of faculty.
4. Attention needs to be paid to the high drop-out rate at the undergraduate level, especially to assessing the reasons for the unusual high rate of students leaving the program during the third and final year of study. Enhancing the writing component of the undergraduate study program may be needed to help prepare students for the final seminar writing project. A mandatory course on scientific/academic writing in direct association with the year when seminar papers are required may be needed.
5. There is an urgent need for increased funding for students for advanced degrees.
6. We see a strong need to track and maintain contact with alumni. This will serve to create a series of cohorts that will support the archaeological mission of B-I.
7. Space for research and tutorial labs, and the number of offices for faculty are grossly inadequate. There is every justification for the dedication of appropriately appointed, contiguous space for Departmental research, pedagogical, and office space. The Administration must view this as an urgent priority.
8. Related to the above, there is an urgent need for the University to honor its pledge to supply laboratory space for the scientific archaeology component of the program. We believe that the addition of on-campus teaching and research laboratories for this staff will strengthen the excellent work presently conducted, and provide an environment to expand this work
9. The University needs to work with the Department to build a framework for supporting technical personnel needed in archaeological research.

BACKGROUND

Bar-Ilan University was officially opened in 1955. The University was fully accredited by the Council of Higher Education in 1969. According to the institution's Self-Evaluation report, during 2009/2010 Bar-Ilan University had 20,305 students at the main Ramat-Gan campus, with an additional 7,446 studying at regional collages affiliated with the University. On the Ramat-Gan campus students were enrolled as follows: 11,142 B.A. students, 7,222 M.A. students and 1,941 Ph.D. students.

The Department of Land of Israel Studies was created in 1974 as an interdisciplinary entity devoted to study of the geography, history, and archaeology of the country. The Council for Higher Education granted permission to establish a Ph.D. program in Land of Israel Studies the 1990s. The name of the department was changed to the Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology in recognition of the important role of archaeological studies within the department's interdisciplinary mandate. In 2006 an archaeological sciences component was added to the program through active cooperation with the Kimmel Center of the Weizmann Institute. This department is located within the Faculty of Jewish Studies.

According to the university's self-evaluation report, the number of students in the department during the 2009/2010 academic years was as follows: 225 B.A. students, 101 M.A. students, and 56 Ph.D. students. The report does not list the number of students within the department focusing on archaeology, but the committee was told that archaeology students constitute about a third of the student body at all degree levels.

MISSION AND GOALS

The Bar-Ilan University concept of Archaeology differs from other universities in Israel. In part it was born out from the history of this institution that holds the basic ideology and moral values of Judaism as its own foundation and the special attachment of the Jewish people to the land of this country. The Land of Israel and Archaeology Department complements this overarching mission in its expressly interdisciplinary focus on the geography, history, and archaeology of the Land of Israel. Indeed, the entire community of tenured teachers, and adjuncts regardless of their rank and status are considered by themselves and the university as a dynamic group and a unit that attract many undergraduates.

The common integrated mission of this department is to provide students with extensive, interdisciplinary knowledge of the history, geography, and archaeology of the Land of Israel through: (1) an integration of approaches and scientific perspectives, and (2) the knowledge of the country and its landscape through field trips and excavations.

The Committee believes the Department has defined a unique and appropriate mission for itself that both complements the overarching mission of Bar-Ilan University and provides a distinct identity within archaeology higher education in Israel. We were impressed by the way in which this interdisciplinary mission was realized in the structure of its study program and in the research output of its faculty and students. This is especially so in the degree to which the department has achieved a sense of integration among the historical, geographic, and more traditional archaeological components of the program.

The integration of the archaeological sciences into the department does not appear to have been fully (or perhaps even partially) realized at this point. As we mention elsewhere in this report, there is clearly a need for the Department to decide how this latest addition to the interdisciplinary mix can be more effectively woven into the fabric of this tight-knit department. We believe that the addition of a focus on the archaeological sciences, and the association with the Weizmann Institute that accompanies this component of the Department, is a positive development and encourage the Department to continue to find a way to bring to better and more effectively this new addition into its mission and study program.¹

Also as noted elsewhere, we find that the lack of faculty and course work in the archaeology of post-Byzantine eras is a weakness that inhibits the Department's ability to provide its students with a comprehensive understanding of the archaeology of the Land of Israel.

¹ See Report Addendum.

CONTENT, STRUCTURE AND THE SCOPE OF STUDY PROGRAM

Organizational Structure

The study program of this interdisciplinary department is structured around two basic tracks:

1. Historical geography of Israel, as divided into four periods: Bronze and Iron Age (Biblical), Classical, Medieval, and Modern, which relies primarily on research tools in history including major textual sources in various languages.
2. The Archaeology track, spanning periods from prehistory to modern times (although specialists for the last millennium are missing, as in most archaeology programs in Israel), which emphasizes the study of material culture through both traditional archaeological methods and, more recently, the archaeological sciences.

A core curricula that includes courses in geography and geomorphology, introductory courses in both historical geography and archaeology in the four main periods of the Land of Israel, and classes in archaeology, history, and other disciplines (e.g. geography, botany, and zoology) is intended to assure students receive a broadly based foundation before specializing in either of the two tracks offered by the study program. Changes in the study program are discussed and approved by the Senior Steering Committee of the department. Each year the curriculum is being redeveloped on the basis of the integrative principles of the program, and approved by both the Faculty Steering Committee and University Teaching Committee. In addition, lecturers are asked to refresh and resubmit syllabi each year. The department chair collects and reviews those syllabi and submits them after review to the Senior Steering Committee.

The Committee was generally impressed by the degree to which the Department succeeds in creating a coherent study program built around these two tracks. Faculty representing the different tracks seem to work well together in crafting curriculum. We were particularly impressed with the recent experiment brings together faculty of the different track to team-teach a course that brings together their different expertise around a single topic. This same degree of integration, however, does not appear to have been achieved yet for the archaeological science component of the program, especially at the undergraduate level.

BA Course of Study

The BA study program gives students multiple options of a minor, major, a double major, or an extended major in the Department. These options vary in the number of course requirements, field trips and number of weeks of mandatory excavation experience. Majors can combine their studies with courses from other departments. Students may also pursue a double major with Departments of Jewish Studies, Bible, Sociology and Anthropology, and Geography and Environmental Studies. An expanded track in Archaeology carries requirements of 50 hours of course work and 6 weeks of excavation. Not surprisingly students who choose this track are also those who take the additional studies and field experience needed for obtaining the “excavator permit” that allows them to get a low-ranked position in the IAA. In 2006 additional double major options with the Departments of Geography, Life Sciences, and Chemistry were created in connection with the BIU-WIS scientific archaeology program.

The Committee was not provided with data on the numbers of students who choose these various options. We were told, however, that about one third of undergraduate majors in the Department follow the archaeology track. We were also told that to date, only one student has pursued an undergraduate degree in archaeological sciences.

The Committee was impressed by the flexibility of the Bar-Ilan undergraduate study program, its commitment to providing students with a holistic and well-rounded background in Land of Israel studies that combines historical approaches, archaeology, geography, and the sciences, and the balance between broadly based introductory and more advanced courses. During our visit, however, certain faculty and some students expressed a concern that the program lacked sufficient opportunities for interested students to pursue archaeological studies in more depth than is possible in the current, broad-based study program. Adding a more focused archaeology track, especially in the third year of studies, was suggested as a possible way of strengthening the program. Striking the right balance in an undergraduate program between a broad-based liberal arts education and a pathway to a professional career is a challenge faced by all archaeology departments in Israel. And while we as a committee favor a more broadly framed study program at the undergraduate level, there may be merit in considering whether this program has moved too far in this direction. It may be possible to make some adjustments to the BA study program that would provide

interested students with a more focused course of study in archaeology, while not losing the unique interdisciplinary flavor of this program.

The low numbers of students pursuing a major in the archaeological sciences was alarming. To a certain extent this low number may be attributed to the lack of specialized teaching laboratories for the archaeological scientists brought into the program as part of the BIU-WIS cooperative program in archaeological sciences, despite the Universities promise to provide these facilities at the initiation of this program. It was also suggested that, lacking the prerequisite background in sciences, undergraduates in the humanities are ill prepared for this rigorous course of study. It is significant to note here, however that the summer field based course in archaeological sciences seems to be well received by students who spoke glowingly about this class. Students and faculty also mentioned the lack of a third year seminar in archaeological sciences served as a further impediment to students wishing to pursue a track in this area. Once again, we believe that the Department needs to devote considerable thought and attention to the continued role of this element of the study program. Dedicated archaeological sciences laboratories must be an essential element of such a program. Greater attention to integrating the sciences into the study program, integrating elements of the archaeological sciences into introductory classes might also help in this regard.²

MA and PhD Course of Study

The department follows the common tracks in the Israeli universities of letting the students decide whether they will do an MA with or without thesis. Those who study for an MA without a thesis are required to write three seminar papers. Thesis track MA students are required only one seminar paper in addition to the thesis itself. Those writing a thesis must submit a thesis prospectus to the department chair who assigns two faculty members to evaluate the proposal, and may later ask for revisions. Once approved the student will conduct the research under the supervision of one advisor, and the submitted thesis will be read by two faculty members. In the final phase the student will publicly defend his thesis.

² See Report Addendum.

The Committee was not provided with details of course requirements for those pursuing MA (with and without thesis) in archaeology. Nor were we given numbers of students pursuing archaeology MAs, though we were told that approximately one third of the large number of MA students in this department are following the archaeology track.

An additional MA without thesis track is available for tour guides and high school teachers. These studies assist in elevating the level of public awareness, and interest concerning the archaeology and historical geography of the Land of Israel. Another MA track in “Environmental Studies” is offered in cooperation with the Department of Geography designed to promote interdisciplinary research in environmental issues. The committee was not provided any details about this new track, its objectives, requirements, or its current enrollment.

At the Ph.D level both the dissertation prospectus and the final examination are conducted by a university-wide committee, which assigns three outside reviewers for the evaluation of the submitted thesis. Although course work requirements for the Ph.D. were not provided in the self-evaluation report, students we met with mentioned a six hour course requirement at the PhD level that was increased to 12 hours for students from other disciplines. There are also apparently requirements that PhD students have course work in one ancient or two modern languages. We were told that approximately one third of the students pursuing Ph.Ds in this Department were archaeologists.

Students we met with spoke highly of integrated approach to Land of Israel studies they received, especially the increased exposure to historical sources that they believed gave them a deeper understanding of the archaeology of Israel. Those participating in the MA track in archaeological sciences also spoke highly of the caliber of courses taught both at Bar-Ilan and at the Kimmel Center for Archaeological Sciences at the Weizmann Institute. Students, however, did comment of the reduced variety of graduate level courses in archaeology (no doubt a reflection of the small size of the archaeology faculty) and felt that there was considerable room to expand in the range and depth of the course selection in archaeology. Students were especially concerned by the lack of archaeology faculty and courses focusing on later post-Byzantine periods. The committee wholeheartedly agreed with this assessment. Likewise, this same concern was brought up by faculty members as well. We therefore

suggest that appropriate hires should be made to address these deficiencies (see recommendations above).

FACULTY

Senior Faculty

The self-evaluation report of the Department of Land of Israel and Archaeology lists a total of 16 senior tenured and tenure track faculty. Only seven of these are in the archaeology track. Three of these seven belong to the archaeological sciences component of the program added as a result of the collaborative arrangement with the Weizmann Institute in 2006. This leaves four senior faculty (two specializing in biblical periods and two in classical eras) responsible for providing coverage of the entire sweep of human history in Israel – from prehistory to the modern era.

The Committee believes that the size and the disciplinary expertise of the senior faculty in the archaeology track is not commensurate with the Department's mission of providing a comprehensive representation of all periods in the history of Israel. Even given the integrative nature of the Department that brings together historical geography and archaeology, the archaeology component of the program is seriously understaffed. The Committee fully endorses the Department's plans to add a position in "historical archaeology" (i.e. from the Ottoman period to the present). We also support the department's interest in an additional senior level faculty line in prehistory/proto-history.

Future programs outlined in the self-evaluation report also include enhanced studies in museology, preservation and conservation, modern Israel (the last 60 years, jointly with Jewish studies), and anthropological archaeology. It is unclear what steps have been taken, or resources, made available, to undertake these initiatives.

It should be noted that the majority of tenured faculty are former graduates of this department and this situation is undoubtedly helpful for the coherence of the social atmosphere but it also raises the serious issue of academic inbreeding. Apparently sabbaticals abroad, as mentioned by the archaeologists, assisted tremendously in broadening the academic and intellectual basis of the tenured faculty in archaeology.

The list of teaching staff provided the Committee indicates that there are no full professors among the archaeology staff. The Dean of the Faculty should be aware that based on their CVs there are at least two or three good candidates for promotion. Stronger budget support and a few additional hires (jointly with other department in the university) would greatly enhance the strength of this department.

Adjuncts

Compared to other archaeology departments in Israel there is an extraordinary number of non-tenure track faculty members in this department. A total of 22 individuals are listed in the self-evaluation report as serving in this capacity in the academic year 2009/2010. Of these 12 are in the archaeology track, with 9 of these individuals are listed at “junior academic staff” with the title of teaching associates. Four of these individuals teach classes that fall within the domain of the archaeological sciences (materials analysis, geoarchaeology, botany, and zoology), while one specializes in prehistory, one in biblical periods, and two in classical eras. All of these individuals hold PhDs and many have additional employment, either teaching at other universities or working for the IAA. In addition, four emeritus professors retired from the Department serve as senior adjunct lecturers, one teaching classes that fall within the archaeological sciences, two classisists, and one ethnoarchaeologist.

As group these individuals seem devoted to and enthusiastic about the Department and feel that they are well integrated members of the staff. These faculty members are able to contribute constructively to curriculum development and mentor MA students.

The Committee believes this large body of adjunct faculty is on the whole a positive addition to the department, especially in light of the small size of the senior faculty. But they do not make up for the major gaps in coverage noted above in the senior faculty composition.

STUDENTS

Enrollment and Completion Rates

As is the case in other archaeology departments in Israel, and within humanities in general, student enrollment at the BA level has seen some decline in recent years (from 274 students enrolled in BA studies in the Department in 2005/2006 to 225 in 2009/2010). The number of students pursuing an MA with thesis track in the Department has remained fairly steady over the past five years, while the number of MA students enrolled in the program electing not to

write a thesis has declined over this time (from 72 to 62). The number of PhD students enrolled in the program has increased from 49 to 56 over this time.

Once again the committee was not provided a breakdown of student enrollment for the archaeology track, though we were told they comprise about a third in each degree category. Reducing these enrollment numbers by one third brings the BIU BA and PhD student enrollment in archaeology in line with other archaeology departments in Israel, most of which have much larger archaeology faculties than at BIU. The enrollment of students in the MA without thesis program, even at a third of the reported number, is much larger than at other universities. We suspect, however, that most of these students are in the historical geography track (perhaps pursuing the track for tour guides and teachers), while a higher proportion of the MA with thesis enrollment is made up of archaeology students.

Even at one third of the total number of PhD students enrolled in the Department, the number of Ph.D. students is large relative to the number of senior archaeology faculty. With 18 of the current 56 PhD students pursuing degrees in archaeology, this constitutes a major burden given the expectations of teaching, conducting research, raising funds and contributing to the community as seen in the Self-Evaluation Report.

Drop-out rates at the BA level varies between about 50-60% over a three year period, which is higher than seen in most other departments. We do not know whether the drop-out rate is the same for student pursuing the two different study tracks. While, as elsewhere, a substantial number of these drop-outs occur after the first year of study, there also appears to be an abnormally large number of students leaving the program in the third and final year of study. Students queried about this unusual pattern, attributed the high drop-out rate of third year students to a lack of preparedness for the elevated writing requirements in the third year of study, especially the final seminar paper. This suggests a need to enhance writing requirements, and guidance in writing, over the entire course of the undergraduate program.

Drop-out rates for MA students seems high compared to other programs, especially those for the academic years 2006/2007 and 2007-2008 at 53% and 67% respectively. It is impossible to comment on these rates, however, without knowing whether this are constant across the department and in both the MA with and without thesis tracks.

Financial Support

Financial support for those pursuing advanced degrees is uneven. Students pursuing degrees in the archaeological sciences track receive fellowship support through the Weizmann Institute. Other avenues of financial support include Presidential Scholarships, which funds between three to four students in archaeology each year, and other University based and national scholarship programs. Other support comes from faculty research grants. Funding levels for students outside the BIU-WIS archaeological sciences program is insufficient and the proscription against students seeking other avenues of support that some of these sources carry, combined with the four year limit of the tenure of funding of some of these sources, present a significant challenge to students, most of whom have personal responsibilities.

Student Counseling and Satisfaction

With the automated registration system there is no formal counseling for BA level students provided by the department. Students report that the course requirements are clearly laid out and they are generally comfortable with their ability to shape their course work selection on their own. Students also reported that professors in the department are very accessible and readily give advice and other assistance to students when this assistance is sought.

In general, students at all degree levels seem to be satisfied with the choices of this integrative, complex program of studies. The fact that each of the studied periods is presented in depth, and the inclusion of archaeology with the history and geography as related to each period, makes the academic and intellectual integration of the evidence clearer for the undergraduates.

BA graduates who specialize in archaeology often find work in the IAA. Others become tour guides, several high school teachers or educational tour guides in Israel studies licensed by Ministry of Education. Museum curators also hire BA and MA graduates as well as the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. PhD graduates of the program have also been successful in obtaining senior faculty positions at both the Hebrew University and the University of Haifa. Alumna of the Department we met with are uniformly positive about their experience at Bar-Ilan and speak highly of the program and the training they received here. As at other archaeology departments in Israel, there is no systematic effort to track departmental alumna or to enroll their on-going support of departmental initiatives.

RESEARCH

Senior Faculty Research Productivity

Archaeology faculty are involved in a number of long term high profile research endeavors including the excavations at Tell es-Safi/Gath, at Tel 'Eton, and a number of projects conducted under the auspices of the joint BIU/WIS program in Archaeological sciences. The Department's history of medicine program has an archaeology component and complements the Department's important archaeobotany program (the only such program in Israel) which is part of the BIU/WIS archaeological science program. These projects provide a platform for much of the student archaeological research conducted in the Department.

Both the caliber and the level of productivity of archaeological research conducted by senior faculty appears to be quite high, with a number of the archaeology faculty producing an average of more than five peer reviewed publication per year. Publication venues include major international journals in the sciences and in the humanities including top tier journal *Nature*, *Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A.*, and *Journal of Human Evolution* (many of these the publications of archaeological science faculty). Most archaeology faculty members have a large network of international collaborators, which also speaks to the high standing of the research of the archaeology component of this Department.

Grants

The small Bar-Ilan archaeology faculty have garnered commendably healthy external funding for their research over the past five years. Funds have been secured from high profile national and international granting agencies including the Israel Science Foundation, the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific research and Development, the US-Israeli Bi-National Science Foundation, the National Geographic Society, and the Institute for Aegean Prehistory. This is an extraordinary record of success that directly benefits the University both in overhead, student support, and in international recognition.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Physical Facilities

The department has one classroom for seminars in the Rappaport Building. Classrooms were improved in recent years and classrooms are equipped with LCD and seem adequate to the needs of the Department. There are, however, only 9 rooms dedicated for academic staff offices (most occupied by 2-3, if not more, lecturers) and two of these also serve as

micromorphology laboratory, and for the history of medicine. Clearly this is inadequate in the amount and type of space for faculty offices.

Laboratories are scattered between two different buildings – the Rappaport Building where a former exhibit gallery has been retrofitted to provide laboratory space for the Tell es-Safi/Gath excavations and a series of rooms in temporary structures 508/5 dedicated to the other Departmental excavation project at Tel ‘Eton and a Micromorphological Laboratory. Although laboratory space for the archaeological sciences faculty are provided at the Kimmel Center for Archaeological Science at the Weizmann Center about 25 km away in Rehovot, other than a time sharing arrangement for a lab in the BIU Chemistry Department, there are no dedicated laboratories for this laboratory based component of the Department.

The Committee was distressed by the shabby and cramped research laboratory space allocated to this highly productive Department. The failure of the University to provide the promised laboratory space for the archaeological sciences component of the Department, five years after the initiation of the collaborative agreement with the Weizmann Institute is similarly of major concern. The lack of teaching/research laboratories for the activities of these three faculty members is almost certainly a major impediment to the smooth integration of this new component into the Department.

We believe that the success of this unit in garnering external funding, in the large volume of high profile publications they produce, and in their far flung international research collaborative network more than warrants University investment in providing the unit with contiguous, dedicated, and appropriate space for its activities. Creation of a space to house the Department’s Institute of Archaeology would also allow the University to better showcase the remarkable work conducted by this unit.

Administrative Personnel

The Department has an administrative assistant, a technical secretary and field trips coordinator. However, an active archaeological institution needs a photographer, draftsman/woman archaeological drawing and GIS, pottery restoration, conservator, collections curator, and publications coordinator. While it may be unrealistic for the Department to expect the University to fund all these support positions, it seems appropriate

that some University contribution is made toward the support of needed support personnel for research activities, perhaps, as is done in other departments of archaeology in Israel, through a cost sharing arrangement.

ADDENDUM

The Committee has learned that the joint Bar-Ilan University/Weizmann Institute program in archaeological sciences was terminated after our visit but prior to the submission of this report. We were not entirely surprised by this news given what we experienced in our interviews. Although this joint program was highlighted as a singular strength of the Bar-Ilan study program in the self-evaluation report prepared for this review, during our on-site visit we were made aware of the significant differences of opinion within the Department over the success of the program and its fit within the mission of this unusually melded department of Archaeology and Land of Israel studies. We mentioned these problems in this report and suggested possible avenues for resolving them.

We are, however, disappointed to learn of this development. As noted in our report, the joint BIU/WIS program in archaeological sciences offered a great deal to the relatively small archaeological component of the Department. We believe this program created a distinctive niche for the BIU study program within the larger context of archaeology higher education in Israel and, indeed, within the international sphere of archaeological research and training. Certainly this is a great loss to the Bar-Ilan graduate study program, both in content and in terms of financial support for students. Problems in the integration of this initiative within the undergraduate study program were not, in our opinion, insurmountable if all parties were willing to work toward their resolution.

We strongly urge the Department and the University not to abandon a commitment to training in the archaeological sciences as a key component of its study program. In particular, we encourage the Department to build on existing strengths in ceramic production and provenance studies and what we understand will be a continued archaeobotany presence on campus. This latter component is a unique asset of Bar-Ilan found nowhere else in Israel that would represent Bar-Ilan's contribution to the cross-institutional graduate study program in archaeological sciences we recommend be created in our General Report. We also encourage the Department to consider individuals with training in archaeological sciences in future hiring decisions, especially individuals who combine these skills with topical and chronological specialties in archaeology.

Signed by:



Prof. Charles Stanish
Committee Chair



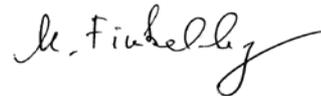
Prof. Susan Alcock



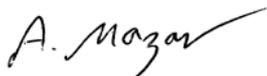
Prof. Ofer Bar-Yosef



Prof. Manfred Bietak



Prof. Margalit Finkelberg



Prof. Amihai Mazar



Dr. Melinda A. Zeder

Appendices

Appendix 1- Copy of Letter of Appointment



January, 2011

Prof. Charles Stanish
Department of Archeology
University of California
USA

שר החינוך
Minister of Education
وزير التربية والتعليم

Dear Professor Stanish,

The State of Israel undertook an ambitious project when the Israeli Council for Higher Education (CHE) established a quality assessment and assurance system for Israeli higher education. Its stated goals are: to enhance and ensure the quality of academic studies; to provide the public with information regarding the quality of study programs in institutions of higher education throughout Israel; and to ensure the continued integration of the Israeli system of higher education in the international academic arena. Involvement of world-renowned academicians in this process is essential.

This most important initiative reaches out to scientists in the international arena in a national effort to meet the critical challenges that confront the Israeli higher educational system today. The formulation of international evaluation committees represents an opportunity to express our common sense of concern and to assess the current and future status of education in the 21st century and beyond. It also establishes a structure for an ongoing consultative process among scientists around the globe on common academic dilemmas and prospects.

I therefore deeply appreciate your willingness to join us in this crucial endeavor.

It is with great pleasure that I hereby appoint you to serve as the chair of the Council for Higher Education's Committee for the Evaluation of Archeology Studies.

The composition of the Committee will be as follows: Prof. Charles Stanish (Chair), Prof. Susan Alcock, Prof. Ofer Bar-Yosef, Prof. Manfred Bietak, Prof. Margalit Finkelberg, Prof. Amihai Mazar and Dr. Melinda A. Zeder.

Ms. Alisa Elon will coordinate the Committee's activities.

In your capacity as the chair of the Evaluation Committee, you will be requested to function in accordance with the enclosed appendix.

I wish you much success in your role as chair of this most important committee.

Gideon Saar
Sincerely,
Gideon Saar

Gideon Sa'ar
Minister of Education,
Chairperson, The Council for Higher Education

Enclosures: Appendix to the Appointment Letter of Evaluation Committees

cc: Ms. Michal Neumann, The Quality Assessment Division
Ms. Alisa Elon, Committee Coordinator

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Appendix 2- Site Visit Schedule



לשכת סגנית הרקטור
Office of the Vice Rector

בס"ד, י"ג באייר התשע"א
17 במאי 2011

Archeology Studies – schedule of site visit

Monday, May 16, 2011: י"ב באייר תשע"א

Time	Session	Participants
08:30-9:00	Opening session with the heads of the institution and the senior staff member appointed to deal with quality assessment	Prof. Miriam Faust, Vice-Rector
9:00-9:30	Meeting with the heads of the Faculty of Jewish Studies	Prof. Eliezer Tauber, Dean of the Faculty of Jewish Studies
9:30-10:15	Meeting with the heads of the Department of Land of Israel studies and Archeology	Prof. Avraham Faust, head of the Department of Land of Israel studies and Archeology
10:15-11:15	Meeting with Senior Academic Faculty* + representatives of relevant departmental committees*	Prof. Aren Maeir Prof. David Adan- Bayewitz Prof. Joshua Schwartz Dr. Rosenberg Lilach Prof. Yvonne Friedman Prof. Ze'ev Safrai Dr. Ehud Weiss Dr. Elisabetta Boaretto Dr. Ruth Shahack-Gross
11:15-12:00	Meeting with Junior academic faculty*	Dr. Michael Ehrlich Dr. Mordechai Haiman Dr. Ofer Marder Dr. Oren Ackermann Mrs. Reut Shaliv
12:00-12:45	Lunch (closed working meeting in the same room)	
12:45-13:45	Tour of campus (Including classes, studios, library, offices of faculty members, computer labs etc.)	Prof. Avraham Faust, head of the Department of Land of Israel studies and Archeology

Tuesday, May 17, 2011: י"ג באייר תשע"א

Time	Subject	Participants
9:30 –10:45	closed working meeting	
10:45-11:15	Meeting with adjunct lecturers*	Prof. Amos Kloner Dr. Gad Kroizer Prof. Shimon Dar

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11:15-12:00	Meeting with B.A. students	
12:00-12:45	Meeting with M.A. students	
12:45-13:30	Meeting with PhD students	
13:30-14:15	Lunch	
14:15-15:00	Meeting of Alumni	
15:00-15:30	closed working meeting	
15:30-15:50	Meeting with the heads of the Department of Land of Israel studies and Archeology	Prof. Avraham Faust, head of the Department of Land of Israel studies and Archeology
15:50-16:35	Summation meeting with heads of the institution and of the faculty and dept. of Israel studies and Archeology	Prof. Miriam Faust, Vice-Rector Prof. Eliezer Tauber, Dean of the Faculty of Jewish Studies Prof. Avraham Faust, head of the Department of Land of Israel studies and Archeology

* The heads of the institution and academic unit or their representatives will not attend these meetings.