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March 15, 2014

Report for: The Israeli Council of Higher Education.

From: Prof. Charles Stanish

Re: Ben-Gurion University Implementation of the Recommendations made by the External Evaluation Team of Archaeology Departments in Israel.

This report is based on:

1. The report of the Committee for the Evaluation of Archaeology Study Programs in November 2011
2. Response to the Council of Higher Education Concerning the Implementation of Recommendations for the Archaeological Division at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in 2013 by Profs. Gunnar Lehmann, David Newman and Steve Rosen.

#### Implementation of Recommendations

1. **Recommendation:** The Committee recommended that the archaeology division in the present Department of Bible, Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies become a separate academic unit.

*Implementation:* This substantial change in administrative structure is under active discussion between department faculty and the university authorities.

**2. Recommendation:** The Committee recommended that a course in Scientific Methods in Archaeology should be made a required part of the BA curriculum offered in the first or second year of study.

*Implementation:* This recommendation was implemented.

**3. Recommendation:** More flexibility should be built into the fieldwork component of the Dig Certification program.

*Implementation.* This recommendation was implemented:

**4. Recommendation:** Budgetary allocations to the Division need to take into consideration the special requirements of archeological training both for students involved in the Dig Certification and BA majors not pursuing this track

*Implementation:* No information was provided in the Response letter although this was a general recommendation for archaeology made by the Committee to CHE.

**5. Recommendation:** Institutional support should be given to the creation of a program in conservation and heritage.

*Implementation:* No information was provided in the Response letter.

**6. Recommendation:** The Ben-Gurion administration and the Archaeology Division need to develop a strategic plan for the graduate program in archaeology

*Implementation:* No information was provided in the Response letter.

**7. Recommendation:** Graduate course work requirements outside of archaeology need to be more flexible.

*Implementation:* No information was provided in the Response letter.

**8. Recommendation:** Greater emphasis should be placed on encouraging graduate students to engage in cross-university course work in sub-disciplines not available at BGU.

*Implementation:* The department has placed students in a number of institutions, including foreign universities.

**9. Recommendation:** At least one new senior faculty line should be added to the Division of Archaeology and all upcoming vacancies must be replaced.

*Implementation:* The university employed the prehistorian Dr. Ofer Marder.

**10. Recommendation:** The current 1/2 time position in classical archaeology needs to be converted to a full-time position.

*Implementation:* Dr. Peter Fabian was moved from a research track to a teaching track position.

**11. Recommendation:** Cross-appointments with other BGU departments should be considered.

*Implementation:* No information was provided in the Response letter.

**12. Recommendation:** More formal counseling of students at the BA level is needed to help students construct course selections both within archaeology and in their non-major course selections that augments the goal of providing students with a well-rounded and comprehensive BA training in archaeology.

*Implementation:* The department improved BA student counseling “through regular personal and group meetings with the students”.

**13. Recommendation:** In the short term, the Division and the BGU administration need to devise more effective ways to move people and collections between the Marcus and Tuviyahu Campus so that current laboratory space can be used more effectively.

*Implementation:* In October of 2013 the university committed to provide a new location for the research laboratories. Planning has begun and the university promised these to be operative in one to two years.

## Discussion

Archaeology at Ben-Gurion is a small but very vibrant discipline. We urge CHE and other university authorities to expand this faculty by at least three more faculty positions. We also strongly urge that some kind of separate administrative identity be created for the archaeologists on campus. Finally, we note that the gender balance is not very good (though the small number of faculty suggest stochastic sample size effects here, and not intentionality), and that an affirmative effort be made to attract female archaeologists to the faculty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Stanish".

Charles Stanish  
Director Cotsen Institute of Archaeology  
Professor, Department of Anthropology