

Report on the Hebrew University response to the CHE committee recommendations:
The Racah Institute of Physics should be applauded for the efforts made to follow the recommendations made by the CHE committee for evaluation of the physics studies. In view of the severe financial constraints, it is clear that some of the solutions adopted by the Institute are temporary and will require additional work in the future.

1. The recruiting of an additional faculty member is good news but the current number of faculty members, 33, is already lower than it was during the visit of the CHE committee and is dangerously low. It results in increased teaching load and too large classes. I hope that the Hebrew University will be able to offset the retiring faculty members and to increase this number in the near future.

2. The more even distribution of graduate students among supervisors is a very good move.

3. Similarly, it is good to hear that the Mathematics courses were adapted to the requirements of teaching Physics students.

4. The 'peer-review' method adopted for checking and grading exercises is very creative and, in addition of alleviating the pressure of doing this by the TAs may have good pedagogical results. If successful, it may be recommended to other universities.

5. It is good to hear about the improvement in the teaching labs. However, this seems to be far from adequate. The need to rely on contribution from the Emeriti's research funds cannot be the rule. It is very important that the University provide more funds to properly refurbish these aging laboratories and install modern equipment.

6. The new Biological Physics program is interesting and I hope that the number of students taking it successfully will increase. This should be monitored by the Institute. Finally, I think that the university should encourage those students that are able and interested to broaden their education by taking more elective courses. I hope the University will modify its tuition regulations to facilitate this without having these (top) students incur additional expenses.