

January 4, 2011

Ms. Alisa Elon

Coordinating the committees for quality assessment of study programs

The Council for Higher Education

By mail [alisa@che.org.il](mailto:alisa@che.org.il)

Dear Alisa,

Hereby is Tel-Aviv University Nursing Department's response to the evaluation committee's report:

We would like to thank the EC distinctive members for their comprehensive and insightful evaluation of the nursing department at Tel-Aviv University. We appreciate your effective and thorough evaluation process. We are truly impressed by the ability of the EC members to unfold the complex situation in which the department of nursing operates, to identify its strengths and restraints and to propose a wide range of concrete and creative recommendations for future improvement and progress. We are encouraged by the positive academic appreciation the EC rated our varied educational programs as well as finding our research portfolio to be strong and "on a par with international and national standards, despite the overload of faculty with teaching, research advising and administrative responsibilities" By the same token we share the EC concern for the future of the department and the urgency for the university authorities to acknowledge the department of nursing achievements and importance and allocate the necessary needed resources .

We have read the report very carefully and discussed it seriously. We found the report to be accurate, and valid in nature and helpful and directive in potential.

**Specific comments:**

1. Increasing the number of faculty is a main goal of our department. We expect that the newly elected leading authority team at Tel Aviv University will present a more attentive and supportive attitude towards the academic achievements of the department of nursing, as well as stronger commitment to resolve its difficulties and future development needs. We expect to develop a fruitful dialog that will lead towards a gradual plan to increase faculty positions, allocate greater resources.
  2. Implementation of the recommendation to increase the number of faculty will help to implement the recommendation of increasing the number of Master students with thesis.
  3. We are convinced that the recommendation not to lower entrance requirements to the BA program will help maintain the level of excellence we have achieved and will help attract high level students. We are sure that the newly elected leading authority team at Tel Aviv University will support this recommendation.
- We believe that a study that will investigate the relationship between admission criteria, success and career choice will provide evidence that will support the EC's recommendation regarding admission criteria.
4. First steps were taken to develop a national Ph.D. program together with Haifa, Jerusalem and Beer-Sheba Universities.
  5. Other recommendations of the EC could be better achieved in collaboration with other departments of nursing in Israel and the Ministry of Health like: improving the teaching methods, allocating specific funds for research projects and doctoral scholarships.
  6. The curriculum as mandated by the Ministry of Health leaves very little teaching hours for elective courses. Along with this, we believe that the number of teaching hours should not be reduced. We believe that elevating the number of elective courses and offering a variety of teaching methods will increase students' enthusiasm.

7. All nursing programs of second career in Israel are not academic. We are currently working on developing such a program. The program will be in accordance with future guideline of the Council for Higher Education.

We hope that the EC's local and national comprehensive assessment will help promote the nursing profession in Israel, and that the report will influence the policy makers to allocate the necessary resources to declare nursing and nursing education a national priority in Israel.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Sivia Barnoy*

Dr. Sivia Barnoy  
Head of Nursing Department