

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

Main Office (617) 495-2171
Undergraduate Studies Coordinator (617) 495-9116
Graduate Studies Coordinator (617) 496-5211
Fax (617) 495-5132



Science Center 325
One Oxford Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
www.math.harvard.edu

August 15, 2012

Review of the Implementation Report of Ben Gurion University

I want to thank the faculty and administration of Ben Gurion University for their report on the implementation of the committee's recommendations. In all reviews of this nature, the most important goal is to stimulate an internal review of departmental practices. I am convinced that this has occurred.

Some of the recommendations of the committee were at a national level, such as the adjustment of level of the material covered in first year courses and the consideration of a national program for graduate students. Although these were not adopted as a whole, I note that several institutions have added preparatory courses for entering students, and that the separate graduate programs are now coordinated under the auspices of the Israel Mathematical Union. Both represent steps in the right direction.

At Ben Gurion University a special issue was the replacement of the Kamea researchers. This has only been partially resolved, as a number of the replacement positions will be filled by adjunct instructors. I am concerned that the instruction in mathematics at Ben Gurion will be largely in the hands of non-research faculty, and the ability of the department to recruit talented young mathematicians will be compromised.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benedict H. Gross'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Benedict H. Gross
Leverett Professor of Mathematics
Harvard University