

21 Adar, 5773

March 3, 2013

To:
Ms. Tamar Efrati
Coordinator for QA
Quality Assessment Division (QAD)
Council for Higher Education
Jerusalem

Response to the Review of the Implementation Report of the Study Programs in Mathematics

Dear Ms. Tamar Efrati,

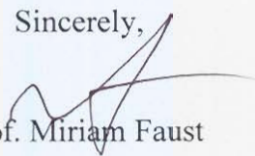
Enclosed please find our response to the review of the Intermediate Implementation Report of the study programs in Mathematics of Bar-Ilan University. I would like to thank Prof. Benedict H. Gross for his comments, suggestions, and ideas for improving the department.

- **Offices:** This is still a major problem. Since the last report, two new faculty members have been hired. They are temporarily using the office of another faculty member who is currently on sabbatical. The university administration is aware of the problem and recently initiated a tour in the department. Another tour, this time with the Rector, is planned. Hopefully, actions will be taken to solve this problem.
- **National Coordination in Graduate Studies:** The Israel Mathematical Union now maintains a webpage listing the advanced graduate courses in mathematics in the various universities. We have worked to enable graduate students from other universities to take courses at Bar-Ilan (and we hope that this will be reciprocal). The heads of mathematics departments in Israel appeal to the CHE to sponsor special programs for graduate students, such as special topic workshops and summer schools.

- **Level of Entering Students:** As reported in the previous report, the department of mathematics continues to hold a summer preparatory course of about 6 weeks. This course consists of two modules: one addressing high school material (covering the essential basics) and one aimed at improving logical thinking, claims, negations, proofs, etc. The preparatory course is recommended to all students. Either/both of the units can be mandatory, depending on the student's previous record.
- **Financial Mathematics:** The program continues to attract high-level students with either economic or mathematical background; many having practical experience in the market. There are good reports from the market on the program's graduates. The search for a program director and expert faculty members still continues. This turned out to be a difficult task, as the relevant candidates are few and difficult to hire. We are currently attempting to recruit a new faculty member who is a mathematician with experience in this field. Negotiations with the administration and with the candidate are underway.

We thank the CHE committee for the helpful comments and hope to continue to improve the quality of the Department in line with these comments,

Sincerely,



Prof. Miriam Faust

Vice Rector

In charge of Quality Evaluation

Cc:

Prof. Haim Taitelbaum, Rector

Prof. Chaim N. Sukenik, Dean, Faculty of Exact Sciences

Prof. Yuval Roichman, Chair, Department of Mathematics