

To Yael Franks
 Coordinator
 Quality Assessment Division (QAD)
 Council for Higher Education (CHE)
 Israel

Re: Evaluation report of the civil engineering study program at SCE – Sami Shamoon College of Engineering

Dear Ms. Yael,

We would like to thank you and the evaluation committee members for their great efforts in writing the evaluation report of the civil engineering study program at SCE – Sami Shamoon College of Engineering.

Below you will find our comments concerning few issues mentioned in the report.

Section/Page	Report	Comment
Mission and Goals/5	“The program aspires to employ ‘top notch academic staff’ which in the context of its institutional focus translates into hiring effective teachers and mentors, holding degrees in Building Engineering, for future graduates.”	We disagree. All faculty members have PhD degrees and play a significant role in the academic life of civil engineering in Israel. Moreover, most of our adjunct professors have a PhD or a master degree. The sentence in the report is based on one case of an adjunct teacher (which is not teaching anymore at our department) and therefore is not representative.
Mission and Goals/5	“... well served to focus on its core quality teaching mission fulfilling educational aspirations of under-represented populations of college students.”	We disagree. The college is the choice of all population sectors and not only of under-represented populations.
Student and Alumni/7	“The student-to-faculty ratio is excessively high, at approx. 40 to 1. This ratio should be reduced.”	Our student-to-faculty ratio is around 35. This number is the commonly applied by institutions of similar level as SCE. Nonetheless, we are seeking for relevant optional future faculty members and recently a new faculty hire joined us. His field of expertise is in Geotechnical engineering.

Teaching and Learning Outcomes/9	<p>“The faculty teaching loads are high at 12 classroom contact hours per week. The committee hopes that that the number of hours will be reduced at some point in the future, as this will be very helpful to faculty members.”</p>	<p>We agree. However, the committee should be aware of the fact that the high teaching load is set by the CHE and not SCE.</p>
Human resources/9	<p>“The supply of academically qualified faculty for the program is very limited based on current recruitment efforts, because there are insufficient numbers of Ph.D. graduates in Civil Engineering in Israel who are able and willing to assume academic jobs at Sami Shamoon College.”</p>	<p>We partially agree. As it is mentioned in the General Report of the committee, the shortage of Ph.D. graduates is the main problem of the civil engineering studies in Israel. Thus, it is not precise to state that “there are insufficient numbers of Ph.D. graduates in Civil Engineering in Israel who are able and willing to assume academic jobs at Sami Shamoon College.” We believe that because <i>there are insufficient numbers of Ph.D. graduates in Civil Engineering in Israel</i> our true recruitments efforts at SCE do not yield in achieving more qualified new faculty hires.</p>

Sincerely,

Dr. Rami Eid