

August 15, 2013

Tamar Efrati
The Israel Council of Higher Education
Jerusalem

Dear Tamar,

We appreciate the thoughtful comments presented in the follow-up report of the committee appointed by the Council of Higher Education to evaluate the School of Behavioral Science.

The committee appeared to be generally satisfied with the changes introduced to the MA programs in Psychology and to the Psychology component of the undergraduate Behavioral Science program. Some remaining comments and queries concerning the Sociology component are addressed below.

Need for integrative courses that address issues from the perspectives of both psychology and sociology.

Crime and criminal behavior almost beg being studied from both psychological and sociological perspectives. An "Introduction to Criminology" will be offered in 2013-2014. Two additional integrative courses will be introduced in 2014-2015: "Conflict and Conciliation" that examines interpersonal and intergroup conflicts and a course offering psychological and sociological perspectives on gender-related issues.

The follow-up report notes that "Historical and Intellectual Sources of Social Sciences" is still listed as a compulsory course, contrary to the recommendation to lighten the weight of theoretical courses and the College's promise to turn this course into an elective.

"Historical and Intellectual...." was still listed in 2012-2013 as a compulsory course as students who had registered to the 2011-2012 Spring semester were still required to take the course. It will be offered as an elective, exclusively, from 2013-2014 onward.

Impact of the newly hired quantitative sociologist.

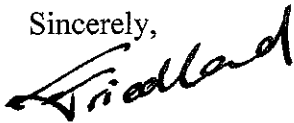
Dr. Amit Kaplan teaches quantitatively oriented courses and seminars, including: a seminar on "Women, Families and the Labor Market," and an elective (with emphasis on quantitative approaches) on "Feminist Theories".

Inclusion of courses that are only tangentially related to sociology in the sociology component of the program.

The boundaries among social science disciplines are somewhat permeable. Nevertheless, we make every possible effort to exclude from the sociology component courses that are too far removed from the core of the discipline.

I hope the above clarifies the issues raised by the committee.

Sincerely,



Nehemia Friedland

Professor and President