ב׳ תמוז תשע״ד
30 יוני 2014

לכבוד
גב׳ מריה לוינסון-אור
מרכזת הוועדה להערכת איכות במדעי המחשב
האגף להערכת איכות
המועצה להשכלה גבוהה
רחוב ז׳בוטינסקי 43
ירושלים 92141

שלום רב,

הנדון: דו״ח הוועדה להערכת איכות הלימודים במדעי המחשב
מכתבכם מיום 30 אפריל 2014

מצ״ב התייחסותנו לדו״ח הוועדה להערכת איכות הלימודים במדעי המחשב, הנוגע לבית הספר למדעי
המחשב במרכז הבינתחומי הרצליה.

בהתאם לבקשתכם, התגובה מובאת בשפה האנגלית, בהתייחס להמלצות הוועדה וכסדר הופעתן בדו״ח.

בכבוד רב,

פרופ׳ רפי מלניק
משנה לנשיא לעניינים אקדמיים

נספח: תגובה להערות הוועדה להערכת איכות

העתק: פרופ׳ אוריאל רייכמן, נשיא, כאן
פרופ׳ תמי תמיר, דיקנית ביה״ס למדעי המחשב, כאן
ד״ר אריק זימרמן, מזכיר אקדמי, כאן

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Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya
Efi Arazi School of Computer Science
Response to Recommendations by
The Committee for the Evaluation of Computer Science Study Programs

We thank the committee for their time and efforts in evaluating our school.
In the table below we describe how we plan (or already started) to implement the recommendations suggested by the committee.

	Committee Recommendation	Steps toward implementation
Short term	The school must set up an industrial affiliate program	We plan to set-up an industrial affiliate program. As a first step, we will examine similar successful IA programs in other Israeli CS departments, and select the model that fits us best. During the last year, we contacted several leading high-tech companies from the Herzliya and Raanana area and in collaboration with these companies, starting next year, we will have a new undergraduate course denoted `workshop with the industry', consisting on shared projects with these companies. We hope that these companies will form the basis for our IA program.
	The IDC must set in place a plan to improve its use of its web site, Facebook presence, and similar media.	A new web-site for the school is under construction. The school has a new Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/computer.science.IDC), managed by the students, under the schools' staff supervision. We created short video-clips and/or presentations describing the final projects in some of the courses carried out in the Spring semester (mobile application, cloud computing and game intelligence) and have linked them to the school's web-page (see e.g., http://youtu.be/0hUSq6MsWPs).
	The school should set in place a process to reflect on the attainment of outcomes in a planned, periodic manner.	The attainment of outcomes is naturally reflected by the students' ability to fit into advanced courses and the high-tech job market. While we still have no formal measuring process, we are evaluating the learning outcomes as a routine through discussions with lecturers of advanced courses (adjunct and faculty), and through discussions with students and alumni, from whom we ask retrospect input and suggestions. We have regular meetings with students (once every semester, with 10 students from each academic year). In particular, the meetings with 3rd year students are devoted to review the strengths and weaknesses of our program. We will have a more formal process for this.

Intermediate term	The school must maintain an appropriate level for graduate courses despite pressure from undergraduate enrollment	We have raised to 80/100 the minimum GPA required from undergraduate students who wish to join graduate courses. This is compensated by adding two new courses (mobile application for the enterprise and game development workshop) that are designated only to undergraduate students.
	If the IDC wishes to bring the school into a position comparable to a unit in a research university, it must bring the student-faculty ratio down to 25:1 without compromising the research quality of the academic staff.	We agree that the number of faculty members must grow. We recently hired Dr. Ilan Gronau, whose main research interests are in computational biology and big data analysis. Ilan will join our school in October 2014. We plan to hire more faculty members in the coming years.
	If the IDC wishes to bring the school into a position comparable to a unit in a research university, it must have at least 20 research-active members of academic staff, without compromising the research quality.	
	The school should support professional development for adjunct and junior academic staff	Our adjuncts and junior academic staff members are encouraged to participate in our weekly research seminar and are welcome to take part in all the events and conferences we arrange on campus. We recently held our annual faculty retreat and were happy to find out that several adjunct teachers accepted our invitation and participated in the event. In addition, our adjunct teachers participate in teaching-related seminars held in campus (e.g., a seminar on using Moodle – our e-learning platform). Achieving this task is challenging as these people are either busy high-tech employees or serve as adjunct faculty in several institutes.