

Ben-Gurion University

1. Information:

The evaluator used the following documents:

- a. The evaluation committee's revised report of October 2012
- b. Implementation report submitted by the institution on 1 November, 2014
- c. Other documents (if there are any): Documents listing the BA and MA/PhD Study Programs for 2014-2015 submitted by Ben-Gurion University along with their implementation report

2. Did the institution implement the evaluation committee's recommendations?

Recommendations	Was the recommendation implemented? Yes/No/Partially	Is the implementation of this recommendation is crucial for the study program to continue? Yes/no	Is there a need for further follow up before the next round of evaluation? Yes/no/partially	Notes
The DSA should open 2 new MA specialties over the next three years, one drawing from comparative political and/or historical studies, the second based on one or more of the fields of stratification, life course, and family studies.	No. The DSA says that the number of MA students has increased (20 to 28) and will consider opening new specialties if trend continues and if it receives permission to hire new faculty	Yes	Yes	
The DSA should add 3 faculty members over the next three years, all with strong quantitative skills. One appointment should be in Organizational Studies, to enhance this existing program. The remaining two should be in the new fields noted above.	No. The DSA has not received authorization to hire. It has, however, recruited candidates for a "Vatat" scholarship	Yes	Yes	The Dean of the Faculty has indicated that the DSA's need for a new faculty member is a primary priority
The recruitment committee should be augmented with a quantitative sociologist from another university, to advise the DSA in the	No. See above.	Yes	No	

recruitment of talented quantitative faculty.				
As vacancies arise among the sociology faculty, two additional appointments should be made in the new fields.	No. No vacancies have arisen	Yes	No	2 new additional vacancies are unlikely to arise before the next round of evaluation
When a vacancy arises in anthropology, it should be filled with an ethnologist who works in a culture area outside Israel	No. No vacancy has arisen. The earliest expected retirement is 2020 (and then in 2024-25)	Yes	No	See above
The number of adjuncts should be reduced, in coordination with the addition of the tenure-line faculty	No. There has been no additions of tenure-line faculty	Yes	No	
The undergraduate statistical curriculum should be updated to include additional topics that are now routinely part of a sociology statistics course. Opportunities should be created to apply these techniques in substantive course work.	Partially. The DSA has added a 2-credit course in research methods in the first year of the BA, and reports that it has made "adjustments" to the undergraduate courses in statistics and quantitative methods, to take effect in 2015-16	Yes	No	
The graduate statistics course should add some moderately advanced material that is common to statistics training in top ranked departments.	No information is provided on this in the implementation report, beyond that the DSSA has "extensively	Yes	No	

	discussed the content and scope of methodological courses, both quantitative and qualitative”			
A representative of the Research Authority of the university should meet with department members to ascertain how the Authority can assist with the preparation of grant applications.	Partially. The DSA reports that it and the University have undertaken various measures to encourage faculty members to apply for research grants. The DSA lists 7 grants that have been awarded in the past several years	Yes	No	
A representative of the university should meet with the senior faculty to discuss the assistance that can be provided, and what would be required from the department, for the establishment of a research center. A department proposal for a center should explain how it would enhance research by the faculty and increase the number of proposals submitted by the department for competitive grants.	No information is provided in the implementation report to indicate that the DSA has produced a proposal for a center	No	No	
To assess the contribution of the department's programs to student outcomes, the department should institute a data collection mechanism to ascertain the career plans of graduates of the department--the rate of enrolling for higher degrees and the initial	No information is provided in the implementation report to indicate that this recommendation has been carried out	No	No	

jobs of students who enter the labor force.				
The University should provide sufficient resources to the library to increase its collections in the social sciences, both book holdings and electronic journals. Further, the library (or Research Authority) should secure access to data archives in Israel (especially CBS files), Europe, and in the United States for use by students and faculty	Partially. The DSA reports that additional books, multidisciplinary journals, and data bases have been acquired. However, lack of such resources are still very limited	Yes	Yes	

3. Conclusions regarding the implementation of the recommendations. Please include operative recommendations for the continuation of the follow up to be implemented by the institution's administration, department, CHE, PBC, etc.

The Department's ability to implement recommendations made by the evaluation committee have been severely hampered by their inability to obtain approval from the University for new tenure track faculty positions. (Until the DSA receives approval to recruit for tenure track positions, it doesn't appear necessary to follow up on this further until the next round of evaluation.) The DSA has begun to implement the recommendations regarding enhancing the quantitative and statistical content of undergraduate courses, and perhaps also of graduate courses. There have been some improvements in library resources, but the sociology and anthropology resources are still very limited. Faculty members appear to have been increasingly successful in securing grants from external sources.

General observations:

This part should include your review on the effect of the process on the quality of the evaluated field in the higher education system Israel.

My observations address issues that are common to several, if not all, departments that were evaluated.

- The evaluation process stimulated each of the 8 Departments of Sociology and Anthropology to assess their strengths and weaknesses. The departments benefited from both from having to conduct a self-study and to respond to the evaluation committee's recommendations.
- The departments have generally made good progress in implementing the evaluation committee's recommendations. In a number of cases, though, the department has been hampered in addressing the recommendations due to budgetary constraints imposed by the University. For example, some departments have not been permitted them to hire needed faculty and thus to implement curricular changes (such as strengthening their statistical offerings or developing additional MA concentrations).

- There does not seem to have been any attempt to develop a cross-university consortium that would facilitate graduate study in anthropology. Several departments have been able to enhance their anthropological offerings, however.
- Inadequate library resources remain a problem for several departments.
- The expansion of applied programs at the graduate level remains a concern. Departments should continue to monitor these programs (especially those in applied organizational studies) so as to balance academic goals with the desires for greater enrollments.