

**Faculty of Law  
Tel-Aviv University**

**Response to the Recommendations of the CHE's Evaluation Report on  
Law Study Programs at Tel-Aviv University**

15 July 2015

TAU Law thanks the Committee for the Evaluation of Law Study Programs and the CLE for its meticulous and thorough review, and for its findings of TAU Law as a world-class law school. TAU Law continuously works towards assuring that the top-notch faculty and top-notch students, to quote the Report, is sustained and further advances. We constantly seek ways to improve and be innovative in research, teaching, clinical work, public and social involvement, all under our conviction that all these elements are interrelated.

Most of the recommendations in the Committee's Report are addressed to the University, and we join the Committee in its recommendations, which we believe are essential to assuring the excellence of TAU Law. We note that the recommendations are marked as "advisable". In the table below, we summarize the recommendations, and where useful, break them into sub-recommendations.

*Ron Harris*

Prof. Ron Harris  
Dean and Professor of Law and Legal History  
Tel-Aviv University, Faculty of Law

Committee Recommendation	Steps towards implementation
<p><b>1. Tenure track slots</b> The University should be flexible in allocating tenure track slots when necessary to compete for genuine targets of opportunity.</p>	TAU Law joins the recommendation
<p><b>2. Joint Degrees</b> The University can play a useful role in helping different faculties coordinate joint programs; in particular, in regard to loading 50% more courses.</p>	In conjunction with curricular reform which implementation begins this coming academic year (Oct. 2015), TAU Law has increased recognition of credits from joint degree classes, and has also made scheduling easier



	by moving to semester-long courses only. TAU Law welcomes University initiatives for better coordination in joint programs.
<p><b>3. Legal Clinics</b></p> <p>a. The University needs to take the cost of clinical education into account in determining the cost of educating a lawyer.</p> <p>b. The University needs to figure out an appropriate status for clinical faculty</p>	<p>a. We join the recommendation wholeheartedly. TAU Law and its clinics currently work on developing a financial model, based on both university funding and the Faculty and the clinics' fund-raising.</p> <p>b. We join the recommendation. Maintaining the high quality of clinical education is, and will continue to be, a crucial factor in any plan to expand the legal clinics. This will be done by hiring only excellent clinical lawyers, maintaining the ratio of 12-14 students per clinical lawyer, and retaining high quality academic supervisors who are expert in the relevant fields, most of whom are TAU Law members.</p>
<p><b>4. LL.B / LL.M classes</b></p> <p>a. Having members of standing faculty teach more of the LL.M courses is appropriate</p> <p>b. Given that a large number of LL.M students come from law colleges, TAU Law has an obligation to provide necessary courses to bring students up to the high level that generally prevails</p>	<p>a. TAU Law has carefully studied its LL.M program in a comprehensive process. Indeed, one of the conclusions of this internal review was to increase the number of standing faculty in the LL.M classes. This decision has already been implemented in the academic year of 2014-15, with standing faculty members teaching additional courses in the LL.M program, including teaching <u>all</u> seminars in the LL.M. program.</p> <p>b. TAU Law is well-aware of its obligation, and the internal review mentioned above has resulted, inter alia, in adding new courses, such as the "legal toolbox" course, a revised course introducing legal theory, and other revisions in the curriculum, as indicated in TAU Law's Report.</p>
<b>5. Non-budgetary Programs</b>	



<p>If there is a regulatory limit on non-budgetary programs, international programs should be excluded, because of their core goal of addressing globalization.</p>	<p>TAU Law is proud of its three International programs: TAU-Berkeley and TAU-Northwestern which enable Israeli students to study abroad, and of the two-year old International LL.M, which brings foreign students to study one year in Israel, at TAU Law.</p>
<p><b>6. Competitive Grants</b> To provide incentives to seek competitive grants, the University should allow faculty members to buy-out part of their teaching obligations, subject to the grant's terms.</p>	<p>TAU Law continues to excel in winning competitive grants, e.g., in the July 2015 cycle of the ISF grants, TAU Law scholars won 7 of 14 grants in law. A new provost will soon assume office. TAU Law discussed the matter of research grants and teaching buy-outs with the new provost.</p>