29 ינואר, 2015

לכבוד:
מריה לוינסון-אור
מרכזת הוועדה להערכת איכות הלימודים במדעי המחשב
האגף להערכת איכות
מל״ג

הנדון: **<u>דו״ח הוועדה להערכת איכות הלימודים במדעי המחשב – המכללה האקדמית תל-חי</u>**
למכתב מיום 23/11/14

אני מתכבד להעביר את התייחסות המכללה האקדמית תל-חי לדו״ח הוועדה להערכת איכות הלימודים במדעי המחשב.

לבקשתך, מוגש הדיווח בפורמט של טבלה:

Committee Recommendation	<u>Steps toward implementation (including time table)</u>
Short term[~within one year]	
1. The department must undertake an energetic and creative effort to fill the currently open position(s) with academic staff with a PhD in computer science. This will require the active support of the college's senior administration.	The department will recruit two new faculty members within the next year and two additional faculty members within the succeeding two years, to reach the goal of 4 extra faculty members with PhD in Computer Sciences by the academic year 2017-2018. We would like to comment that our faculty includes 2 other senior members with PhD in Mathematics who are active in research in discrete mathematics, on subjects related to theoretical computer science. They do teach successfully, mathematical and theoretical subjects compatable with their expertise. The faculty also includes an associate professor, with a PhD in Electrical Engineering whose expertise allows him to successfully teach courses in processing of voice and image as well as computational learning. Faculty members with similar expertise are common in many Computer Sciences departments around the world. We would also like to stress that four adjunct professors with PhDs in Computer Sciences from leading universities and comprehensive experience in applied research also teach in our department, as well as two adjunct lecturers with PhDs in Information Systems Engineering.
2. The college and the department must formulate a strategic growth plan for the department to include at least 8 core computer scientists.	A strategic plan to achieve the required goals has already been created and budgeted. We believe that results will be demonstrated soon.
3. The department must not launch a CS Master's program until the staffing challenges have been addressed.	The department will launch the Computer Sciences Master program as soon as the staffing challenges are addressed and the CHE approval is received.
4. The department must ensure that all students complete a project as required by the CHE standards.	A senior faculty member has already been appointed to launch, within three months, a program that will ensure that all our students will complete a project as required by the CHE standards. The program, when approved, will be carried out during the next academic year.
5. The department must start to track the graduation rate, within 6 years of entering the program, of undergraduate students who successfully complete the first year. An effort should be made to understand the student-attrition problem, and the reasons for dropping out of the program	The department has already carried out a comprehensive follow-up, led by a senior faculty member, to track our graduation rate. We were pleased to see that the graduation rate of undergraduate students who successfully completed the first year is higher than 85%. The rates are consistent and even improving over the last five years. It points out that most of our students who have succeeded in crossing the academic barriers of the first year, do cope successfully with the whole program, which is of high academic standards.
6. The department must ensure adequate supervision of teaching and course syllabi taught by adjuncts to ensure quality of teaching and	Quality of teaching, course syllabi and coherence between courses has always been supervised by the head of the department with assistance of senior faculty members and external professors from leading universities. The supervision also includes periodical talks with the adjuncts, class visits, interviews with

coherence between courses.	students and bi- annual polls. Nevertheless, following the request of the committee, 4 teams, led by senior faculty members, were established. The teams consist of our faculty members who supervise academic quality, syllabi and coherence of adjuncts and new faculty members as well, in the following fields: 1. Programming languages and software engineering. 2. Operating systems, communication, hardware and security. 3. Theoretical branches of CS and math. 4. Learning systems, AI, signal, image and video processing. The teams, who have already started carrying out their tasks, will consult leading external experts as needed. The teaching assistants are well supervised by the professors in charge of the various courses.
7. The department must ensure that there is a program of professional development for academic staff members at all levels, faculty and adjuncts.	The department encourages professional development of staff members at all levels, faculty and adjuncts. During the last five years, due to energetic efforts of the college senior management and to a modest support of the CHE, budgets to promote research, international conference attendance, financial support for scientific publications for faculty members are available and results are well demonstrated. The college also maintains a team, that promotes, excellence in teaching.
8. The department should encourage the students to form an association.	Although the head of the department, as well as all our staff is approachable to students, the department's head has already asked and will assist the students to form an association. Students at the college are represented by the local college student association.
9. The department should set in place a process to reflect on the attainment of outcomes in a planned, periodic manner.	A faculty member has already been nominated to set in place a process to reflect on the attainment of outcomes. He will conduct it in a planned manner and will prepare an annually report that will include conclusions, to the head of the department and to the faculty council. For recent results, see also article 5 and the next one.
Intermediate term [~within 2-3 years]	
1. The department must ensure that the graduation rate, within 6 years of entering the program, of undergraduate students who successfully complete the first year is at least 75%.	As mentioned in article 5 at the previous section, the graduation rate of students who successfully completed the first year is over 85% by now. Over recent years, the department, backed up financially by the college, has devoted much efforts in preparing our novice students to succeed in our demanding B.Sc. program. It includes extra curricular tutoring and trainings hours. A full semester course in mathematics (top level of high school – 5 unites) is offered twice a year to our candidates. Admission terms have also been enhanced. Hence the rate of graduation is supposed even to rise.
2. The department should encourage faculty members to involve undergraduates in research.	Faculty members are currently involving undergraduate students in research and even cooperative papers have already been published. Following the recommendation of the committee we shall further this successful trend and encourage all faculty members to involve their undergraduate students in research.
3. The college must establish a plan for providing adequate office space for present and future academic staff	The college has enlarged the office space allocated for the faculty members by approximately 50 m^2. This space has been designed and equipped with the appropriate equipment and infrastructure, devoted for present and future staff.
Medium term [~within 4 years]	
1. The department must reach a goal of 8 senior academic faculty members with PhDs in core computer science.	The department is doing everything possible to reach the goal as required by the committee. See item 1 in the former section.

בברכה,

פרופ' יונה חן,
נשיא