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פרופ' דורון כהן

ראש המחלקה לפיסיקה

6 November 2019

To: Head of Evaluation and Quality Enhancement

Re: Response to MALAG evaluation

Please find below our response to the MALAG evaluation report in table format as requested

<b>Committee Recommendation</b>	<b>Steps toward implementation</b>
C1. Complete the renovation of the first-year student labs.	As documented by the committee, Prof. Krichevsky will be in charge of the first year student labs starting the coming semester. During this semester a renovation plan will be completed.
C2. Take concrete steps to improve the gender and minority representation among the faculty.	This aspect is transparently discussed with the management, who recently approved a funded budget line (bridge loan) to the Department until 2025. This loan is being used to recruit an excellent female candidate.
C3. Improve the mentoring of students in the MSc program.	The MSc period is 2 years. We shall ask for a mid-term status inquiry by the chair of the MSc teaching committee.
C4. Develop tighter and more meaningful connections to relevant BIDR faculty.	Steps are taken in order to enhance the cooperation with BIDR, both in the management level, and in the practical level (see 3.7 below). Also we will consider (towards 2021) to define dedicated soft matter BSc and MSc tracks.
C5. Provide resources for grad students to attend conferences and summer schools outside Israel.	The Rector has declared in front of the committee that he will act to remove the restrictions on funding of such participation (talk/poster will not be required to attend a school).
3.5 The university assigns less credit to reading courses, a policy that does not make sense and should be amended.	The Dean agrees that teaching of reading-mode courses should receive full credit. She promised to discuss this issue with the university management in order to accredit faculty members for teaching reading-mode courses.
3.6 Expansion of the department is an	The expansion of the department is being

important issue, as BGU physics has opted for breath of physics coverage	discussed with the Rector and the President. The university approved a funded budget line (bridge loan) to the Department until 2025. This is being used to recruit an excellent female candidate.
3.7 HEP Group required expansion	Dr. Eran Palti has joined the group, and will arrive 2020. Further expansion depends on management policy.
3.7 Biophysics Group is sub-critical	We have reinforced the group: 3 adjunct theory researchers have joined. Regular group seminar will be initiated. Also planned is a joint MSc program with BIDR.
3.7 AMO - The Attosecond laboratory of Frumker, still under construction, looks very promising.	Indeed it is planned to become active during the upcoming academic year.
3.9 We also learned that Chemistry will be moving into a new building under construction. They will release some space, which could possibly go to physics.	We hope the management will provide plan / schedule for this item. Our specific requests in this context are still pending.

Prof. Doron Cohen

דורון כהן