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As we already stated in our earlier comments on the Action Plan submitted by the Rector and President of Ben Gurion University on behalf of the Department of Politics and Government, we thoroughly appreciate the efforts to rectify the situation. Indeed, if the Action Plan and the measures detailed in the letter of February 22, 2012, are implemented, BGU's Department of Politics and Government will have followed the main recommendations of the CHE Evaluation Committee Report of September 2011. As a result, the option of closing the department which the Committee had mentioned as a last resort, in the absence of changes, should be off the table in our view. However, we cannot change the Committee report at this point.

In the following, we comment on the individual steps mentioned in the letter in addition to the earlier Action Plan:

#### FACULTY

The Department is now hiring three new faculty in the fields of comparative politics, quantitative methods, and political theory, thus following the recommendation of our committee. In 2013-2014, the Department plans to hire a fourth faculty member in political science. We recommend in this context that the Department seeks to hire in European studies, as recommended by the committee. In any event, four new faculty will substantially strengthen the Department's political science component and, thus, rectify our most important concerns.

#### CURRICULUM

We thank the Department for submitting the syllabi for the introductory courses to us. They do indeed indicate a broad view of the field of political science. We suggest, however, to expose students to modern political theory, too, in the respective class and, maybe, to update the Introduction to International Relations curriculum a bit. But this is, of course, up to the instructors to decide.

#### PUBLICATIONS

We reiterate the concern expressed in our committee report that the publication record of the Department can and should be improved, particularly with regard to leading political science journals or university presses. To this end, Department publications should be classified as to whether they are in high impact refereed journal articles, refereed journals, non-refereed journals, monographs published by university presses; submitted articles (if mentioned at all) belong on an entirely separate list. We congratulate the Department members that applied successfully for extremely competitive Fellowships.

#### POLITICAL BALANCE

We take issue with the Department's view that our letter appears to be confused between the issues of personal political views of faculty members, on the one hand, and the commitment to present students with a broad view of the field of political science, on the other. On the contrary, our letter and the committee report are crystal clear in this context, and there is no need to repeat our concerns here. We do note, however, that some members of the Department of Politics and Government at BGU have attacked the committee report including some members of the committee in the Israeli and international public in such a way as to distract from the serious issues raised in the report. We congratulate the Department chair and the rector that they have nevertheless stayed on course of rectifying the situation at Ben Gurion University's Department of Politics and Government.