The review was aborted when it emerged that there was absolutely no need for this document for the meeting of the publications committee.

Table of Contents

List of tables xi

Diagrams xii

Foreword xv

Acknowledgments xvii

**Introduction** 1

The relationship between theory and research 3

Summary of the study 5

Structure of the book 12

**Chapter 1: The development of higher education in Israel until the end of the Twentieth Century..** 13

The fight over the Higher Education Council Law 13

The fight over the creation of the Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC) 21

The fights to increase the accessibility of higher education and open the colleges 30

Stage 1: The creation of a link between the regional colleges and the universities 31

Stage 2: The academization of the colleges 35

The fight against extensions of foreign universities in Israel 40

Discussion 45

**Chapter 2: The “lost decade”** 47

The price of the “lost decade” 47

Attempts to fix the situation: Professional committees and direction readings 57

The Shochat Committee (2007): The Committee for Examining the Higher-Education System in Israel 57

The Trajtenberg Report (2007): A Socioeconomic Agenda for Israel, 2008–2010 59

Hurvitz and Brodet (2008): Israel 2028: Vision and Strategy for Economy and Society in a Global World 60

OECD Report (2010): Reviews of Higher Education in Regional and City Development 61

The Planning and Budgeting Committee’s Work Plan for Fixing the Failures of the Lost Decade 64

Discussion 66

**Chapter 3: “Open the Gates for Us”: Higher education for Haredim** 69

Formulation of national policy guidelines 71

The policy of the Planning and Budgeting Committee and of the Committee for Higher Education: The early stage 76

Encouragement of local initiatives for promoting higher education among Haredim 77

The Planning and Budgeting Committee’s five-year plan for 2011–2016 81

Gender segregation and academia: When values collide 84

Evaluating the quality of studies 93

Examining the five-year plans in a research study 98

Discussion 104

**Chapter 4: Expanding accessibility to Arab society** 110

The aggregate method as an alternative to the psychometric tests 111

Identifying the disparities 117

Identifying the obstacles 120

The five-year plan of the Planning and Budgeting Committee and of the Council for Higher Education for increasing accessibility 122

Practical actions taken in institutions to increase accessibility 125

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem 125

The Weizmann Institute of Science 127

The Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa 128

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev 129

The University of Haifa 113

Tel Aviv University 132

Results of the policy by the numbers 135

Discussion 140

**Chapter 5: Higher education in Israel from the perspective of the international committees** 145

Methodology 145

High academic standard 147

Medium academic standard 153

Low academic standard 171

Discussion 182

**Chapter 6: The quest for renewal and improvement following the international committee’s recommendations** 184

The system’s weaknesses: The main themes in the international committees’ reports 184

1. Students’ unpreparedness for academic study 186
2. Underbudgeting and lack of resources 189
3. Conservative teaching and learning methods 191
4. The spread of colleges for research and not only for teaching 193
5. The need to engage in community outreach 194
6. The need for long-term planning (strategy) 195

Preparations by the Council for Higher Education and the Planning and Budgeting Committee to improve academic quality 196

1. Establishing centers for scientific excellence (I-CORE) 197
2. Promoting international collaborations and access to competitive resources 198
3. Programs for the advancement of the humanities 199

Discussion 206

**Chapter 7: Rising politicization in the field of higher education** 211

The process of accrediting a university in Ariel 211

The legal situation 211

A legal loophole for the establishment of the Council for Higher Education in Judea and Samaria 213

The higher education boom and budgeting of institutions of higher education in Judea and Samaria 214

From a college to a university 218

Amending the Council for Higher Education Law 224

The dismissal of the vice chairwoman of the Committee for Higher Education and a political appointment 227

Political involvement in the appointment of members of the Committee for Higher Education 229

The harm caused to the status of the Council for Higher Education and its members from the perspective of the heads of the universities 230

Discussion 233

**Chapter 8: The decreased status of the Planning and Budgeting Committee**

The political pressure to recognize Ariel University 238

The universities’ petitions to the High Court of Justice 241

The pressure to establish a medical school in Ariel 243

Reichman University 249

The initiative to establish the University of the Galilee 256

Discussion 257

**Chapter 9: Toward fixing the system’s flaws: The Governance Bill** 264

Early initiatives for change 265

The recommendations of the Bashaar team 265

The recommendations of the Samuel Neaman Institute 267

The Governance Committee: Preparation Work 271

1. An international survey 271
2. Defining the challenges 274
3. Hearing experts’ testimony 275
4. Hearing the position of former education ministers and incumbent ministers 276
5. Hearing the public’s position 279

Resolving the contradictions: The complex task of the Governance Committee 282

The recommendations of the Governance Committee 285

Discussion 288

**Chapter 10: The academia of tomorrow: Directions for renewal in teaching and learning** 290

From the world of work to the world of higher education 290

The effect of the technological changes on the character of learning 292

The vision of the new campus of the Council for Higher Education and the Planning and Budgeting Committee 295

1. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem 297
2. Tel Aviv University 301
3. Technion – Israel Institute of Technology 307
4. Bar-Ilan University 311
5. Ben-Gurion University of the Negev 315
6. Afeka College of Engineering 318
7. Weizmann Institute of Science 322
8. Tel Hai College 326
9. The University of Haifa 328

Discussion 331

**Chapter 11: Conclusion** 336

The politicization of higher education 336

Making higher education accessible to the public 341

The devaluing of the humanities 343

The budget crisis 346

The Governance Bill 349

The new teaching and learning methods 350

Epilogue: 2023 353

Bibliography 365

List of interviewees 381

Index 383

Index of names 395