Why Are We on Strike?

Autumn 2007
How Good Is the Israeli Academy? (A Short Reminder)

Source: Nature 430, 15 July 2004

Gross domestic product per person
Papers Published in “Nature” and “Science” (in absolute numbers in 2007)

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<td>Switzerland</td>
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What Happened to the Faculty in Israel During the Last Six Years?

No. of Positions per Year

Source: Council for Higher Education in Israel - Planning & Budgeting committee (VATAT).
Israel Lost a Generation of Brilliant Young Scholars

The number of Faculty in Israel was reduced by 15.63%, from 5359 to 4521 between 2001 and 2006. Eight hundred positions were lost.

This number is equal to a faculty in a medium sized university (e.g. The Technion plus Weizmann Institute)

The brilliant young faculty who did not get positions in Israel immigrated and got positions in the best universities of the USA
Between 2001-2006 the number of university students in Israel increased by 9.7%.

Source: Council for Higher Education in Israel - Planning & Budgeting committee (VATAT).
The Erosion in Our Salary Since 1997

Trend Data (Percentages)

Source: National Bureau of Statistics
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Senior Academic Personnel</th>
<th>Average*</th>
<th>Inspection Equipment</th>
<th>Communications Equipment</th>
<th>Computerization</th>
<th>Research and Development</th>
<th>Finances</th>
<th>Market Average</th>
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* simple average of all of the following excluding wholesale Market average

22.13% in comparison with the wholesale average

90.1% in comparison with the R&D sector

58.2% in comparison with the computerization sector

52.86% in comparison with the average of all of the relevant sectors

31.14% in comparison with the public management

Source: National Bureau of Statistics
Overall Erosion

Direct erosion:
The number of Faculty decreased by 15.63%

Direct erosion:
The number of Students increased by 9.7%

Indirect erosion
Our salary eroded by 22.13% to 90.1% in comparison with any relevant sector.
How Did the Erosion in The Salary Happen?

Unlike the public sector, the faculty does not have any mechanism to prevent erosion in salary.
What Are We Demanding?

- A compensation for a decade-long erosion in our salaries in comparison with the public sector (i.e. 35%)

- Avoiding future erosion in our salaries and future strikes.
Why go back to 1997?

• In 2001 we were forced, because of the Intifada and the economic crisis, to accept an agreement that ignored the actual erosion in our salaries since 1997.

• A clause was introduced into the agreement allowing us to demand the compensation for the 1997-2001 erosion “in the future”.

• The clause and the demand were acknowledged by the Committee of University Presidents (Vera).
We Waited Patiently

• For the Intifada to end

• For the submission of the Shochat committee’s decisions

• For the end of the negotiations with the Histadrut
Since February 2006, We Warned Both the Treasury and Vera

• That ignoring the erosion in our salaries will eventually lead to a strike

• That we cannot suffice with a 9.4% increase in our salaries (and certainly not with a raise of 4.7%) when the erosion alone is of 35%
What Should Be Done?

• The government should start a serious, non-stop negotiation over the relevant issues.

• The government should raise and upgrade the rank of the negotiators in order to reach decisions.

• Vera should back and support the faculty, as they promised to do back in 2001.