To: The Ministry of Education  
cc: Professor Adonis Moschovakis,  
    Director of Graduate Program in the  
    Brain and Mind Sciences  

We visited Crete from April 18th to April 20th 2011 to evaluate the  
Graduate Program in the Brain and Mind Sciences. This gave us the  
opportunity to listen to the presentations of the students enrolled in the  
program and discuss with them at length a number of issues relating to  
their studies. We also had the opportunity to discuss with the faculty  
members their experience resulting from changes in the curriculum that we  
had suggested during our previous evaluation of the program and which they  
had implemented.

We were all highly impressed by the world class quality of the research  
carried out by the students of the Program, which we believe reflects their  
deep understanding of neurosciences. To some extent the exceptionally high  
quality of their work is due to the fact that the faculty members are well  
respected scientists with international reputation and the fact that the  
program is truly comprehensive covering a wide range of sub-disciplines  
including Neuroanatomy, Neurophysiology, Neuropharmacology and  
Neuroendocrinology, Functional Brain Imaging, Neuropsychology, Developmental  
Psychology, Philosophy of Mind, Neural Networks, Computational Neuroscience,  
Robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

On the basis of our long experience with the prevailing conditions in major  
universities in Europe, the United States and Asia we can state with  
certainty that the Graduate Program in the Brain and Mind Sciences meets the  
highest standards for teaching and training graduate students in the field of  
Neuroscience. The students enrolled in the Program are highly motivated and  
compare well to those enrolled in the best neurosciences programs in Europe  
and the Americas.

Evidently, through their dedication and systematic work the members of this  
graduate program, faculty and students alike, created a lively scientific  
community where ideas are thriving in an intellectually exciting environment.

In our opinion, the Graduate Program in the Brain and Mind Sciences  
continues to offer graduate level studies in Greece of extraordinary quality.  
It was one of the first in the world to promote an interdisciplinary  
approach to studies of the brain and mind, and remains one of the few that  
have managed to do so successfully. It integrates Basic Neurobiology with
Computational Neuroscience, artificial Intelligence, and Social/Cognitive Neuroscience, and it trains the next generation of scientists to address one of the deepest and most exciting questions ever posed: how does the brain work and how does it give rise to mind and behavior?

In view of the outstanding quality of the program we suggest that the Ministry of Education not only continues its current support for the program but considers supporting its expansion into an international one that would accept applications and train students from around the world.

We also became aware of the fact that per paragraph 2 of Article 1 of N3685(148/16 Jul 2008) Graduate Programs, such as the one in Brain and Mind Sciences which we evaluated, are responsible for organizing studies leading to a Masters Degree, while per Article 9 of the same law it is the University Departments that are responsible for organizing studies leading to a Doctoral Degree (i.e. a PhD). This disconnection of the first stage (familiarization with the original literature) from the second round of graduate studies (original research) is unfortunate and should be reconsidered.

Prof. Andrew C. Papanicolaou
Director, Center for Clinical Neurosciences
The University of Texas Medical School

Prof. Apostolos Georgopoulos
Regents Professor of Neuroscience
McKnight Presidential Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience
American Legion Brain Sciences Chair
Professor of Neuroscience, Neurology, and Psychiatry
Director, Center for Cognitive Sciences
University of Minnesota

Prof. Helen Barbas
Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology,
Boston University School of Medicine

Prof. Nikos Logothetis
Director, Max Planck Institute
For Biological Cybernetics