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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.



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