

Prof Leiter's recent post about Prof. Hanoch Sheinman ("[Bar-Ilan University continues its war on academic freedom, speech and the due process rights of faculty](#)") is simply incorrect. The process Prof. Sheinman's lawyer demands that we halt – the "Midway Review Process" – is a common procedure at many universities, including Bar-Ilan. Its intent is to review the performance of faculty members who have not yet received tenure and whose appointments are renewed from year to year. The process includes evaluation of the candidate's scholarship, teaching and contribution to our scholarly community. Similar evaluations take place at almost every university that offers tenure to its faculty (see [this example from Northwestern](#); countless similar examples could be easily adduced). It is this evaluation process that Prof. Sheinman is presently undergoing. It will be carried out, as it always is at Bar-Ilan, by a "Programs and Appointments Committee" comprising all the tenured professors in the relevant Faculty (in this case, the Faculty of Law). Nothing about Prof. Sheinman's review will be any different from the performance reviews to which all tenure-track faculty are subject.

Promotion and tenure decisions are made at Bar-Ilan solely on the basis of relevant professional considerations. Prof. Sheinman's political views will have no bearing on the committee's evaluation of his performance. Neither will the letter that Prof. Sheinman sent to students during the 2014 war in Gaza.

The decision of whether or not to continue Prof. Sheinman's employment will have nothing to do with his political views. It will turn instead on the more prosaic issues and questions, among them, Prof. Sheinman's academic achievements and whether he fulfilled the obligations to his students and colleagues that he undertook when he was first offered the prestigious jurisprudence chair at the Bar-Ilan law school. In endeavoring to ensure that only the finest scholars, teachers and mentors receive tenure, Bar-Ilan is simply doing what every university has a responsibility to do.

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