Towards Implementing A Dream Idea - A Shared Arabic/Hebrew Alma Mater Song for Haifa University

Paradigm Shifts:

Cleavage/Conflict Analysis → Problem Solving/Conflict Transformation

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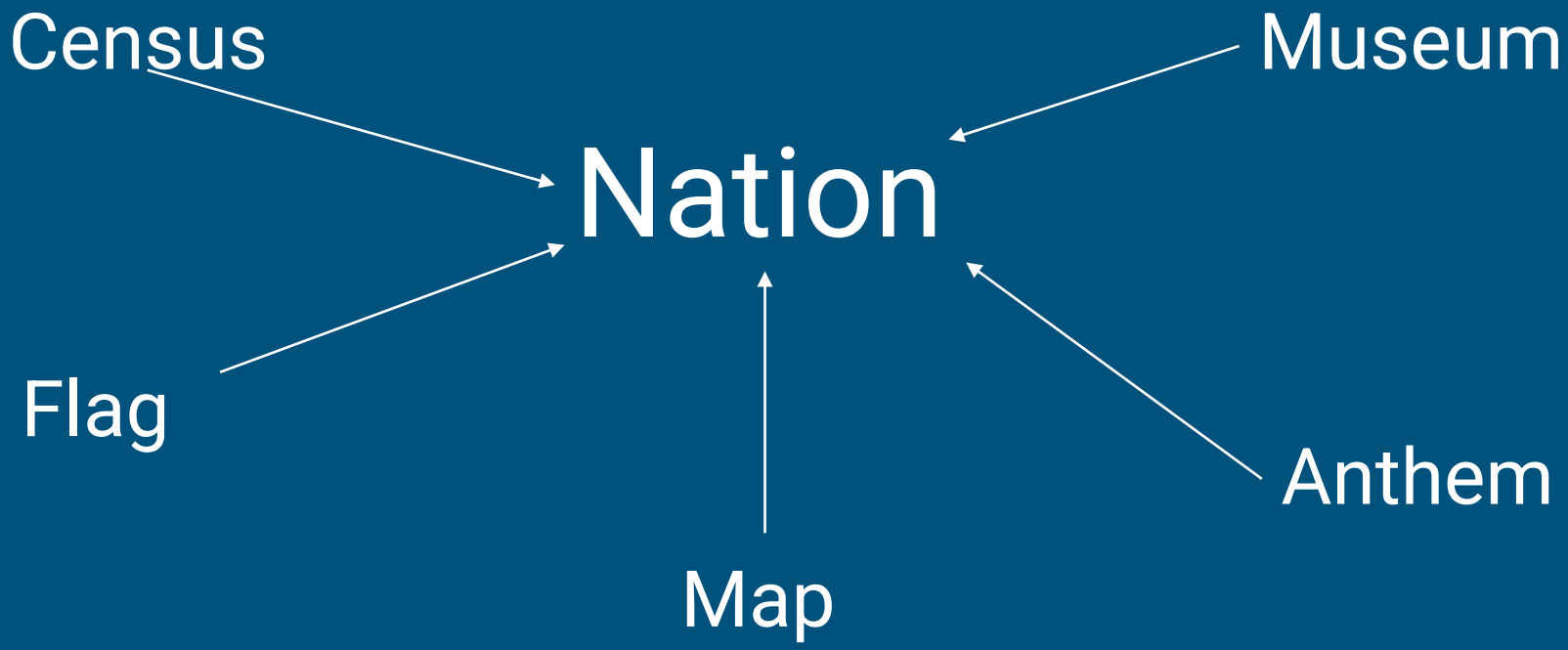
Imagined Communities: Benedict Anderson



Anthems: National and Subnational

- A National Anthem (hymn, song, etc.) is a musical composition usually evoking or eulogizing the history, traditions, and struggles of its people.

- It is recognized either by a nation's government as the "official national song" or by convention, through popular use.

Nation	Minority N.A	Government Type	Minority Type	Minority Name	% of pop.	National Anthem Name
Cyprus	No	Full Presidential System	Ethno-nationalist	Turkish Cypriots	18.00%	"Hymn to Liberty"
Greece	No	Parliamentary Republic	Religious Sect	Muslims	7%	"Hymn to Liberty"
Israel	Yes	Parliamentary Republic	Ethno-class	Palestinians	23.60%	"Hatikva" (The Hope)
Italy	Yes	Parliamentary Republic	Ethno-nationalist	Sardinians	2.70%	Il Canto degli Italiani ("The Song of the Italians")
Jordan	No	Constitutional Monarchy	Ethno-nationalist	Palestinians	31.50%	The Jordanian Royal Anthem (السلام الملكي الأردني)
Lebanon	Yes	Parliamentary Republic	Ethno-nationalist	Palestinians	10.00%	The Lebanese National Anthem (النشيد الوطني اللبناني)
New Zealand	Yes	Constitutional Monarchy	Indigenous	Maori	7.40%	God Defend New Zealand
Spain	No Official Lyrics	Constitutional Monarchy	National Minority	Catalans	15.90%	Marcha Real ("The Royal March")
Switzerland	Yes	Directorial System	Ethno-class	Foreign Workers	20%	Swiss Psalm
Turkey	Yes	Parliamentary Republic	Ethno-nationalist	Kurds	18%	İstiklâl Marşı ("Independence March")
United Kingdom	Yes	Constitutional Monarchy	Ethno-nationalist	N. Irish Catholics	2.90%	"God Save the Queen"
United States	Yes	Full Presidential System	Ethno-class	Hispanics	15%	"Star-Spangled Banner"
Australia	No	Federal Parliamentary	Indigenous	Aborigines	1%	"Advance Australia Fair"
Canada	Yes	Constitutional Monarchy	Ethno-nationalist	French Canadians	23%	"O Canada"

HaTikva

Hebrew	Transliteration	English translation	Arabic translation
כל עוד בלבב פנימה	*Kol ‘od balleivav penimah*	As long as in the heart, within,	طالما في القلب تكمن،
נפש יהודי הומיה,	*Nefesh yehudi homiyah,*	A Jewish soul still yearns,	نفس يهودية تنبض،
ולפאתי מזרח, קדימה,	*Ul(e)fa’atei mizrach kadimah,*	And onward, towards the ends of the east,	وللأمام نحو الشرق،
עין לציון צופיה;	*‘Ayin letziyon tzofiyah;*	An eye still gazes toward Zion;	عين تنظر إلى صهيون.
עוד לא אבדה תקותנו,	*‘Od lo avdah tikvateinu,*	Our hope is not yet lost,	أملنا لم يضع بعد،
התקוה בת שנות אלפים,	*Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim,*	The hope of two thousand years,	أمل عمره ألفا سنة،
להיות עם חפשי בארצנו,	*Lihyot ‘am chofshi be’artzeinu,*	To be a free people in our land,	أن نكون شعب حرّ في أرضنا،
ארץ ציון וירושלים.	*Eretz-tziyon (v)'Y(e)rushalayim.*	The land of Zion and Jerusalem.	بلاد صهيون وأورشليم القدس.

Singing HaTikva: Factual Background (Major Incidents)

- In 1994, Baruch Goldstein murdered 29 people and wounded 175 more in the Cave of the Patriarchs/Ibrahimi Mosque Massacre
- After the Massacre, a demonstration organized by “Peace Now” and “The Committee of Arab Councils” ended, not with Hatikvah, but with one minute of silence.
  - The rationale was that, following an outrage of this sort, an Anthem intended only for Jews should not be sung at a joint demonstration of Jews and Arabs
- Several Israeli-Arab government officials, such as Druze Religious leader Saleh Tarif, Muslim Member of Kneseth Ghaleb Majadale, and Christian Supreme Court Justice Salim Joubran, have also stood in official ceremonies when HaTikva was being played, declining to sing.

From Common Cleavages...

- Several times, an Israeli university announces that it will not sing HaTikva at one or another of its graduation-related programs. The stated reason, unsurprisingly, is that the University's faculty did not want to make the Arab graduates or their families uncomfortable.
- PM Benyamin Netanyahu used the most 2019 case (from Hebrew University) as an example showing the need for the "JEWISH NATION STATE LAW [2018], officially establishes Hebrew as Israel's official language, and downgrades Arabic — a language widely spoken by 20% Arab Israelis — to a "special status."
- A double standard is clearly being applied to the University and to the Yeshivas, where the Ultra-Orthodox do not sing HaTikva. The same is true of Government Coalition Partners such as Yahadut HaTorah.

Toward Conflict Transformation

- Real and Symbolic cleavages are clearly causing antagonism between the Jews and Arabs of Israel.
- The University of Haifa Law School's decision not to sing HaTikva at graduation further aggravated this tension, and even reached the national media. Goverment officials threatened to cut public funds, and the University committed to play the national anthem in official ceremonies,
- While this conflict is in a stalemate situation at the national and official level, this proposal will assess the plausibility of implementing a jointly produced university song, an ALMA MATER to all.

The Challenge

Can we unite in song together?

Attempts/ Unlikely Solutions

- Do not sing Hatikva
- HaTikva as an Israeli *Sine qua non*
- HaTikva, but with Debka Music

Attempts/Solutions (Part 2)

- Change a few words in HaTikva
- Add another, more inclusive stanza to HaTikva *a la* Justice Miriam Ben Porath
- Neshema Carlebach’s Anthem for all

An eye still gazes toward Zion

Theoretical Considerations for Conflict Transformation

- “We can’t compare!”: What are we comparing?
- A Brief Introduction to Identity-Driven Conflict (Tangible vs. Intangible)
  - Tangible: water, land, money, construction, etc.
  - Intangible: Religion, National Pride, Sense of History, etc.
- Can “Mezzo” (subnational) communities produce Consensus songs?
- Can National Anthems Change? And When?

South Africa

Canada

Theoretical Considerations for Conflict Transformation: University vs. National Anthems

- Why did University Anthems precede National Anthems?
  - University of Bologna, 1088 “Alma Mater Studiorum,” “Gaudeamus Igitur” 1287 Click to hear
- French Revolution, “La Marseillaise”
- Why, in other Countries, are University Anthems best produced top to bottom? And why, in Israel, is the reverse true?
- What are the differences between Sports/University/Religious Songs, and Athems?
- Can we sing more than one National Anthem?

The Alma Mater Song (*Not* Hymn or Anthem)

Do we need shared music, or a participatory unifying moment? Can we have both?

REMEMBER? Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*: Map, Flag, and Anthem main components of national identities [individual choices rather than institutions such as museum

Personal experience, incident at Truman Peace Institue, Hebrew University-, Lessons learned with unexpected Israeli Flag on stage during an Israeli Palestinian activity during the First Intifada 1988

Precedents of Alma Mater Songs in Israeli Universities

- 1897 Hebrew University Anthem –Inauguration of the University 1925 Not in use- Rector Yehuda Magnes, Brith Shalom Binational state
- Bar Ilan University – Judith Hirsh/Ehud Manor ?
    - Despite a heavily Jewish Identity, Bar Ilan does not appear to have used their own song for years
- Latest Precedent: IDC

טקס הענקת תארים
Graduation Ceremony

2018

IDC Herzliya Anthem

Among the eucalyptus trees
There beside the wildflowers
Arose a new academy
The academy of tomorrow

From around the land
We came together
From south and from north
To Herzliya we all came
To fulfill the vision

Here again we will always return
With pride and with emotion
Because this is our second home
The Interdisciplinary Center
IDC !!!

המנון המרכז הבינתחומי הרצליה

בין עצי האקליפטוס
Bein Atzei, Ha-ekaliptus

וליד פרחי הבר
Uleyad Pirchei Ha-bar

קמה לה אקדמיה
Kama La, Academia

אקדמיית המחר
Academiat Hamahar!

מכל הארץ התכנסנו
Mi-kol Ha-aretz Hitkanasnu

מדרום ומצפון
Mi-darom Umi-tzafon

להרצליה באנו
Le-Herzliya Ba-anu

להגשים את החזון
Le-hagshim Et Ha-hazon!

לכאן תמיד נחזור אנחנו
Le-kan Tamid, Nachzor Anachnu

גאים ונרגשים
Ge-im, Ve-nirgashim

כי זה ביתנו השני
Ki Ze Beitenu Ha-sheni

המרכז הבינתחומי
Ha-merkaz Ha-beintchumi

בינתחומי!
Beintchumi !!!

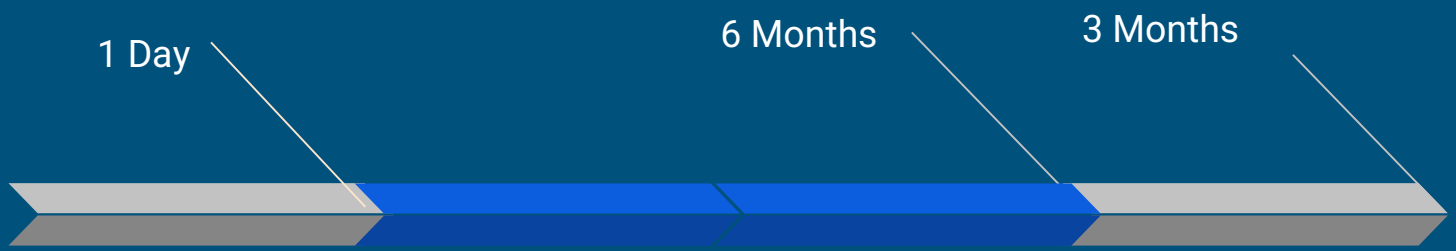
Expand the Cake *Before* You Cut It

- The First Annual Convocation of Peace And Conflict Management will accept the decision to play HaTikva. Students may feel free to stand or not, sing, or not
- *We posit that the exploration of shared values during a joint Jewish/Arab in-depth study is a first constructive step. To that end, as well, arriving at a consensual institutional song, producing it, and addressing the university's authorities with it will be, in itself, a bonding experience.*
- The Former Rector made a promise to explore a song that brings us all closer together.

Strategy: An Ownership Solution

- Made In-house
  - Long Experimentation
  - Trial and Error
- Needs-based Approach: Diagnosis & Treatment
- Process Critically Impacts Outcome
- Shared Skills
  - Consensus Building
  - Brainstorming
  - Active Listening
  - Nonviolent Communication
- Beware of “Spoilers”

Project planned Activities



First Stage: Zoom Presentation

- Done with 2020/2021 PCM Students and Faculty
- Invitation extended to Hebrew Literature, Arabic Literature, and Music Departments
- Sharing Conflict Transformation skills

Second Stage: Drafting the Song

- **Build a Steering Committee tp include among its members Arab and Jewish Faculty from Hebrew Literature, Arabic Literature, and Music Departments.. Brainstorming sessions**
- **Comissoning text in Arabic and Hebrew + music**

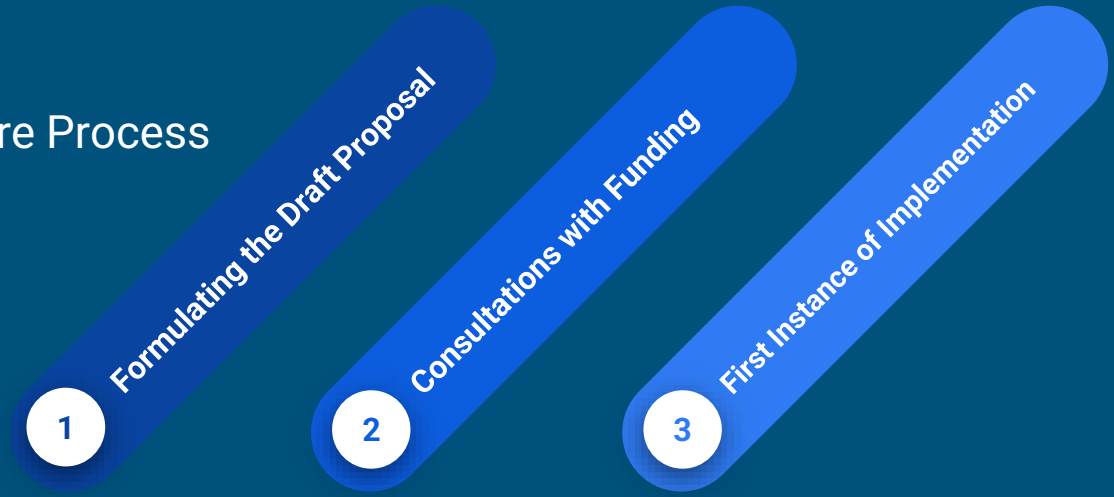
Third Stage: Crowdsourcing/ Widening Ownership

- **Feedback to be collected, assessed, and, possibly, included in the final version**
- **Submission of draft ALMA MATER to University President and Rector.**
- **Crowdfunding Completion Date: July 2021**

Monitoring and Evaluation

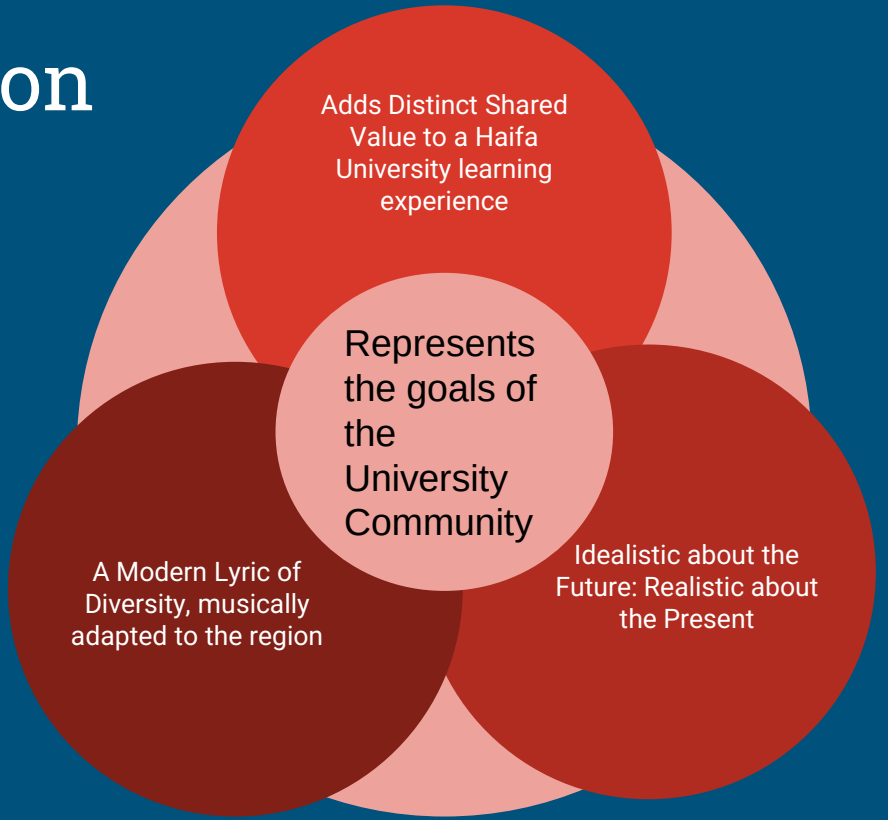
- Implement “Action Evaluation” Methodology of Prof. Jay Rothman
  - Interaction and consultation with ALL Stakeholders--starting with the U.S Embassy Public Diplomacy Experts

- Spreads Through the Entire Process



Strengths and Innovation

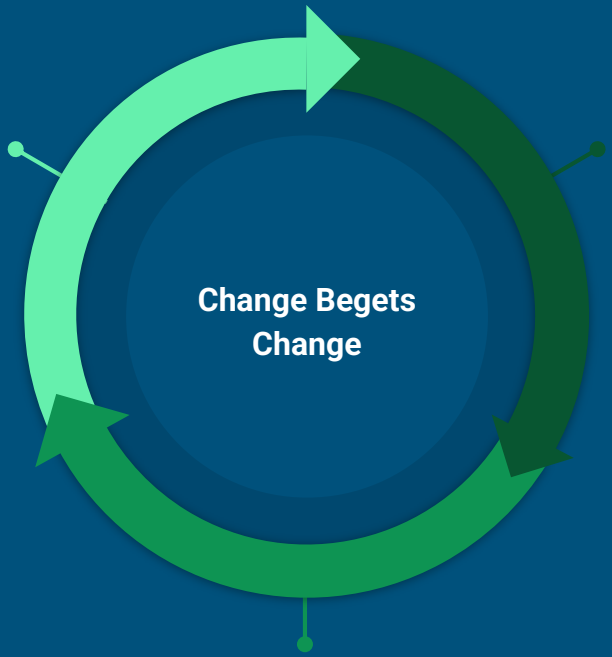
A Shared Vision of the Future	Inspired by the city that has led the advance toward coexistence in Israel
Shared Values, Consensual Construction	Wide consultation process and creativity through crowdsourcing among students and faculty
Tested as a Realistic Proposition	Likely to generate an *esprit de corps* on campus, which will likely be followed by other Universities



Sustainability

Successful Completion of This Experiment

Can awaken a higher level of awareness, and even generate knowledge of the lyrics and music *outside* the University of Haifa.



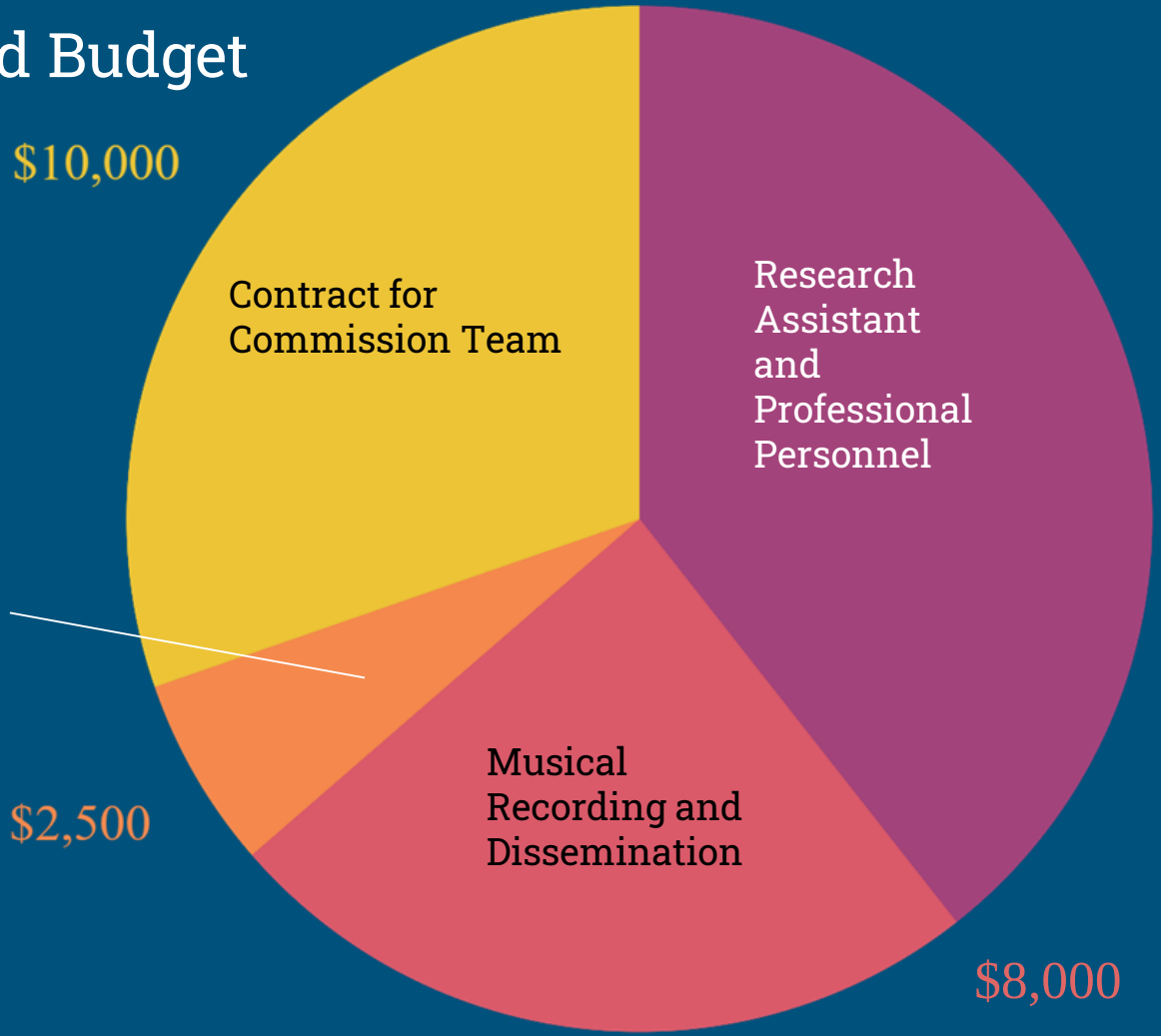
“Expand the Cake Before You Cut It”

Will give ample voice to the basic needs of both the Majority and Minority - which is necessary, in view of likely spoilers.

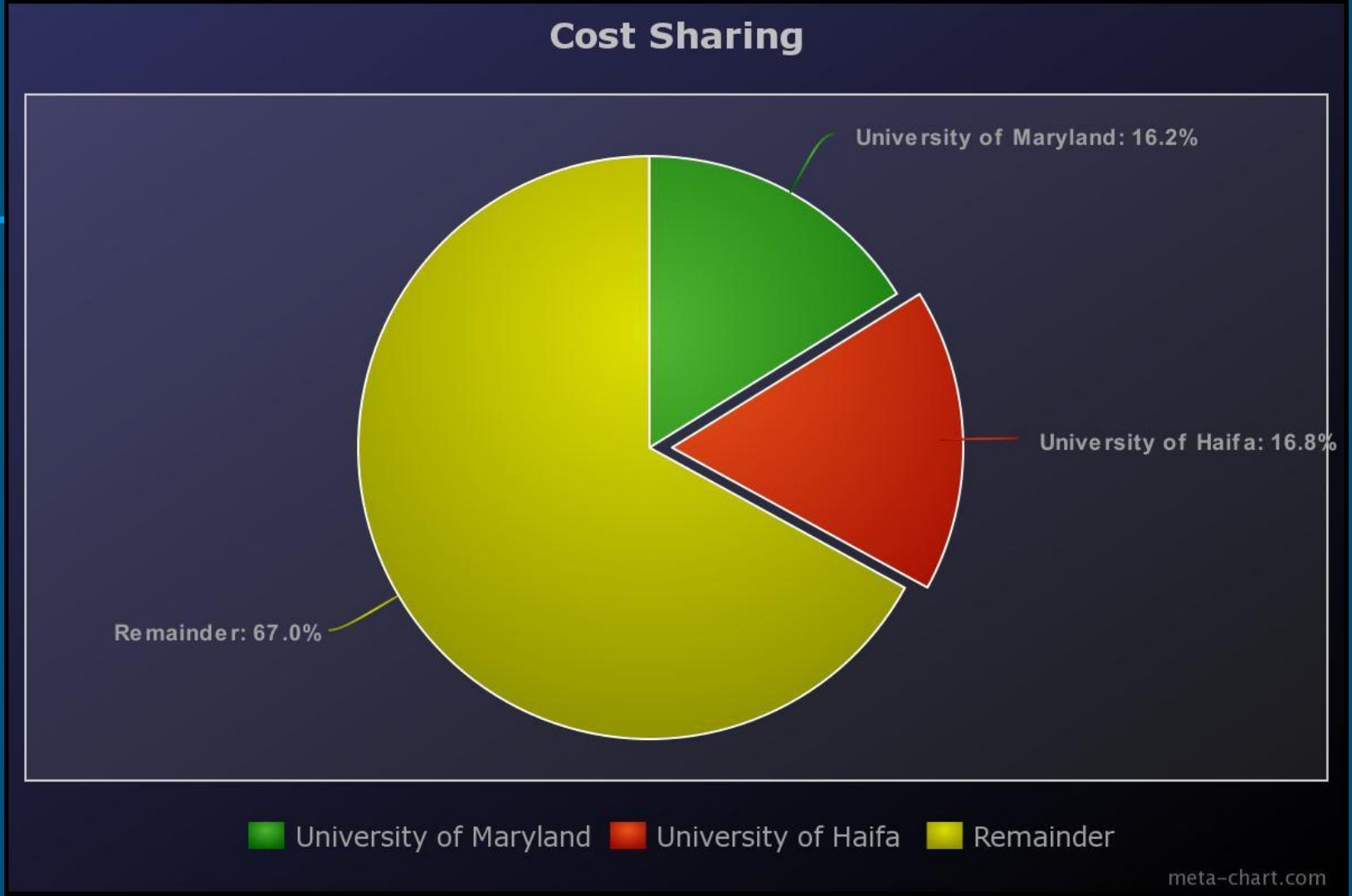
A Search for Similar Words in Hebrew and Arabic

paves the way for allowing all members of Haifa’s academic community to sing in either - or both - of the two languages.

Estimated Budget



Total: $23,700


Cost Sharing
University of Maryland: 16.2%
University of Haifa: 16.8%
Remainder: 67.0%
University of Maryland
University of Haifa
Remainder
meta-chart.com

Ways to Contribute

Ideas

- Email kaufmane@umd.edu or alexanderbindrim@gmail.com

Friends

- This project benefits from publicity. Tell anyone who may be interested

Money

- Email kaufmane@umd.edu and receive instructions on how to contribute via Haifa University any amount- Edy is matching each donation

Or...

All of the Above!

Your support means the world to us !!!

This experiment in multiculturalism and shared identities across the divide of protracted societal conflicts is work in progress. Thank you in advance for your understanding.