**Annual Departmental Assessment Report**

**Department or Program: JDST**

**Academic Year of Report: 2018**

**Department Contact Person for Assessment: Gantt Gurley**

**Section 1: Learning Objectives Assessed for this Report**

There were no JDST majors in the AY 2017-18. Therefore, there was no direct application of the assessment protocol.

**Section 2: Assessment Activities**

N/A

**Section 3: Actions Taken Based on Assessment Analysis**

N/A

**Section 4: Other Efforts to Improve the Student Educational Experience**

In order to improve student educational experience, the director of the program has partnered with Hillel to lead a weekly student-based discussion that exposes students to various topics in Judaic Studies. These mini-courses cover subjects such as anti-Semitism, foodways, family, Jewish art, history, and letters, etc. This helps major/minor recruitment and I have found it to be effective for advising as well. Students that are reluctant to come to advising hours tend to come to more social circles where informal advising can be given. This often leads to students coming to office hours to discuss their academic goals more formally.

**Section 5: Plans for Next Year**

The curriculum committee is also discussing and revising a new proposal for broadening the language requirement for the JDST major. (Note: this proposal Presently, it is oriented towards Biblical Hebrew, but the faculty feels that is too limited and that students should be able to study languages that fit their course of study. For example, students studying Holocaust should be able to focus on German or French as a Jewish language. Current assessment protocols support this endeavor since graduating majors are required to present to the director a rationale for their language study within the parameters of Judaic Studies. This will insure that students have thought philosophically about their linguistic experience and how it relates to their field of study.