



From the President

June 2021

From Ideas to Reality

Implementation of the Strategic Plan: Investment in the University's IT and Digital

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As part of the implementation of the University's strategic plan, we have taken significant steps over the past two years to update our IT infrastructure to support BGU as a leading and innovative institution. We have increased our investment in IT by more than NIS 14 million.

Below is a partial list of completed and in-progress projects:

Research and Teaching Infrastructures

Research infrastructure:

We established a High-Performance Computing (HPC) infrastructure; created research work processes; improved procurement and pricing processes; and launched additional support tools for researchers – Grammarly and Overleaf.

The world of data:

We are building a new Business Intelligence (BI) system. Phase 1 of the project has gone live and provides advanced analytical tools that researchers and management can apply to research data.

We've migrated to the cloud:

We've implemented Microsoft's cloud-based work environment, including Office365, Outlook, One Drive, Teams, and more.

After the Coronavirus – looking to the future:

Within just a few weeks we were able, in collaboration with the Operations Division, to equip about 100 classrooms with some of the most advanced technology and multimedia available – allowing a learning experience aligned with the hybrid teaching model.

The Digital Experience

Upgrading the mobile experience:

Some 18,000 students use the MyBGU application, which was launched during the Covid pandemic. The app includes academic information, announcements, links to websites and the student union. The app is bilingual, with additional versions (including one for staff members) going live soon.

New website:

We are in the early stages of a massive project to replace all the University's websites, which will include implementation of advance search capabilities, distributed updating, and uniform design templates using advanced technology. Also planned are the creation of work and information spaces for various groups of users, such as new faculty members.

New learning systems:

We purchased and implemented, in collaboration with the Unit for Promoting Quality Teaching and Learning, an innovative AI-based learning platform – MENT.IO. The platform enables online classroom discussion and promotes active learning.

Digital exams:

A new system for online digital grading of exams and papers was launched successfully. Over 10,000 exams were graded online in the first semester of 2020-21 academic year.

This is but a partial list of the extensive activities taking place in the realm of information and digital technologies at BGU. These and more will contribute to the advancement of research and teaching, to improving services and enhancing the user experiences of faculty, staff and students.

I would like to thank Ms. Yifat Godiner, CIO, Deputy Director General, Head of Technologies, Innovation & Digital, and each and every staff member in the Division.

Yours,
Prof. Daniel Chamovitz, President

Our partners: Suggestions and ideas can be emailed to bgu.impact@bgu.ac.il

