



Dear Students and Faculty Members,

Happy Jewish New Year!

About a month from now, at the end of the holiday season, we will meet again on the campus to open the new academic year. We would like to take this opportunity to wish us all a successful and productive academic year.

This year we will continue to try and be the very best we can be. We will continue to compete for the largest, most prestigious and competitive research grants. We will continue to insist on publishing groundbreaking research in the world's leading journals. We will continue to lead research in the social sciences in Israel and to be among the top 50-60 social science faculties in the world.

This year, we have made a special effort to open our doors to students whom we have not previously seen enough in our midst. We are referring, in particular, to three different groups. The first is students from the Ultra-Orthodox sector. We are making efforts to integrate them in the general student body and are already seeing signs of progress. The second is students from the Arab sector. We are hoping to already see students who have been admitted to our faculty based on their grades in the matriculation exams of the Palestinian Authority without the need for the psychometric test, as part of a pilot scheme conducted by the Hebrew University.

The third group is international students. We are launching a new international program (international law and conflict resolution) and will be investing considerable energy and resources into promoting additional international programs, attracting foreign students, increasing the number of our students studying in foreign exchange programs, and strengthening collaborations between our academic staff and their colleagues abroad. We will work to strengthen these aspects in a new international unit that we established this year.

We see the students, academic staff, and administrative staff as one community, a community dedicated to learning and researching. We are all committed to courtesy, responsiveness, and mutual respect, while at the same time adhering to high academic and ethical standards. We will continue to work in various ways to strengthen our community. For example, in the coming weeks we will begin a renovation of the corridor to make it a more pleasant place in which to sit. This project is part of a university-wide project to improve the student experience. We hope that these foyers will generate new ideas, new friendships, and fruitful and enjoyable learning experiences.

Yours,

Prof. Tamir Sheaffer, Dean

Miri Stern-Lev, Associate Dean

Prof. Limor Shifman, Vice Dean for Teaching

Ronit Sasson, Secretary for Teaching and Student Affairs