

## **Digital Transformation**

### ***Improve the quality of Education and Research using digital technology, and transform operations and services***

#### Vision

Due to rapid development of AI (artificial intelligence), and advancements in the application of big data, the IoT (Internet of Things), cloud computing, and other types of digital technology, the ways in which we live and work are beginning to change dramatically. Furthermore, the spread of infection by the new coronavirus (hereafter “COVID-19”), which began in early 2020, has led to a “new normal” in the education and management of Kwansei Gakuin University, including the introduction of fully-online courses and remote conferencing.

Even if COVID-19 is eradicated in the future, it is predicted that the application of digital technologies like these will proceed at an unprecedented rate and scale. If environments for 5G are arranged, new services utilizing VR (virtual reality) and AR (augmented reality) will be created, and a world which fuses the real with the virtual will be born. Changes in the field of education will also progress dramatically and irreversibly.

In order to respond to the post-COVID-19 paradigm shift, it will be necessary for this university's education as well as management to implement full-scale application of DX (Digital Transformation). The question of whether or not DX can be promoted in groundbreaking ways will be the test that determines the university's value to society. However, the term “Digital” of DX only refers to its method, and it is the idea of “Transformation” that is its true essence. It is important to remember that the goal of DX is the realization of the university's educational philosophy, and to be always careful that DX does not become our objective in itself.

As society is rapidly shifting to a Cyber-Physical System (fusion of physical space and information space) for Society 5.0, this university must combine face-to-face and online systems to transform education, research, and various services to become even more effective and efficient. For example, since the effectiveness of online (on-demand) systems in classes focusing on the acquisition of knowledge has been clarified, it will be essential to improve efficiency in these areas by working on initiatives such as increasing the educational effectiveness of the entire curriculum through shifts of educational resources (instructors, etc.) to competency-oriented face-to-face classes (such as collaborative study).

As this university enters Phase II (2022-2024) of its long-term strategy, it will position DX as its most important management strategy. We will strongly promote the digital conversion of education, research, and management with the objectives of maximizing the value of education and research, student and learning support, as well as thoroughly reviewing the desired state of services, operations, working styles, functions, and organizations, and achieving management that can apply digital data to its fullest.

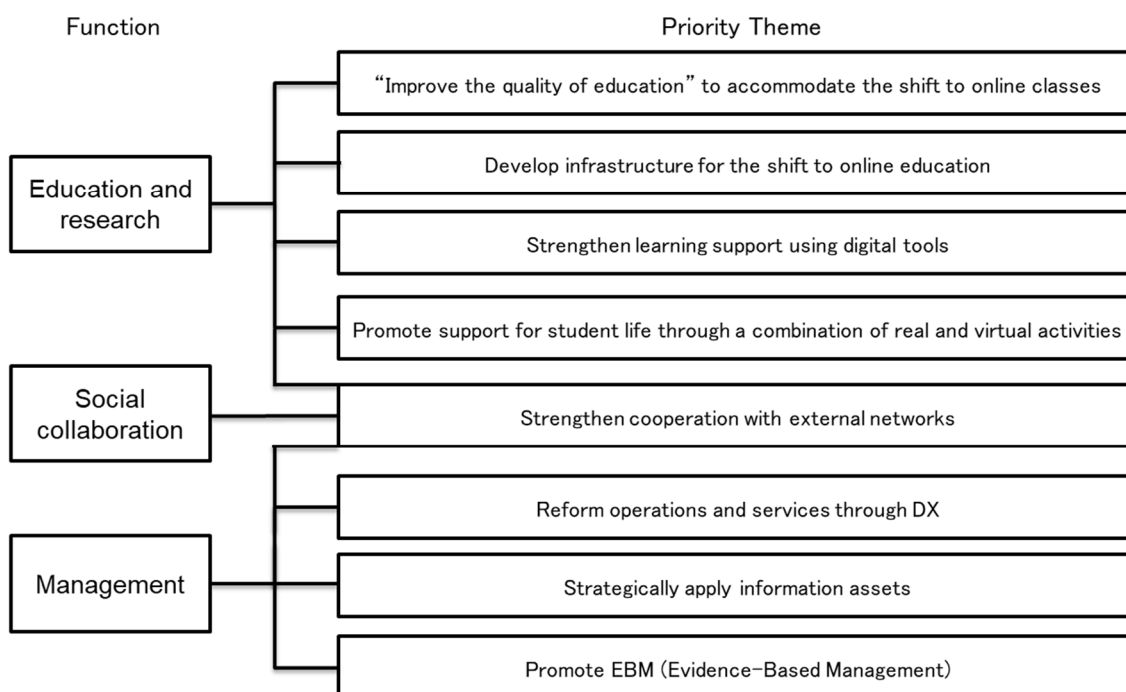
The “Central Committee of IT Strategy Reform” (Secretariat: Organization for Information

Strategies and General Planning Department) will be established in the 2021 year, and will play a central role in promoting DX as the entire university works toward this goal in accordance with the following basic policies and function-specific key themes.

[Basic policies]

- 1) Establish IT governance (supervise the IT budget of Kwansei Gakuin University and pursue “overall optimization”)
- 2) Promote the conversion of education and research to an information-oriented state (develop infrastructure to improve the quality of education and research)
- 3) Standardize operating processes (achieve a balance between service standards setting and user viewpoints)
- 4) Shift from paper to digital media completely (paperless operations, business and service reform)
- 5) Centralize data management (introduce ETL tools<sup>24</sup>, etc.)
- 6) Develop digital human resources internally and effectively apply them externally
- 7) Strengthen investments and systems for stability and safety (achieve a balance between security enhancement and convenience)

[Priority themes by function]



Individual implementation plans will be specified for each of the long-term strategic themes to which the above priority themes apply, and the practical execution of those plans will be promoted from Phase II (2022-2024) of the Medium-Term Comprehensive Management Plan.

<sup>24</sup> ETL tools: Tools that extract data from various databases, convert it into a format that is easily incorporated into data warehouses (DWH), then process, and export it.