SMU bids farewell to Bukit Timah

THE Singapore Management University's (SMU) flag was lowered for the last time at its Bukit Timah campus yesterday morning as students and staff bade farewell to their home of four years.

In a symbolic move led by SMU Chairman Ho Kwon Ping, an entourage of 1,000 undergraduates and academics set off from Bukit Timah and wound its way down Nassim and Orchard roads to the university's new city campus in Bras Basah.

The SMU moved into the Bukit Timah campus in 2001, while its permanent 4.5ha home was being built. The six new buildings were officially handed over to the university in June.

"I'll miss the library at the old campus where I'd meet up with my friends after classes, and the cafe next door where we all went for our coffee breaks," said 24-year-old business graduate Nurhana Mohamad Taip.

Mr Ho, who waved the SMU flag on arriving at the new campus, said: "This is a different kind of campus for a different kind of university — a place which will produce a new generation of graduates with the passion to make a difference and to shape the global business landscape.

SMU students will start their new academic term on the city campus on Aug 22.

Next August, the National University of Singapore will move its law faculty of 780 undergraduates and 200 graduate students to Bukit Timah.

It had occupied the place as Raffles College, University of Malaya and the University of Singapore from 1929 to 1981.

ARTHUR POON

OFF TO CITY: Students and staff, led by Mr Ho (in the back of jeep) and SMU president Howard Hunter (with flag), set off for new campus.