Former vice-dean of Harvard Law School joins SMU

FORMER vice-dean of the Harvard Law School David N Smith, is to become the dean of the new Singapore Management University (SMU) School of Law. SMU has also made a number of key appointments intended to improve the legal faculty at the law school.

“I am delighted to have assembled such an outstanding team of law faculty for the new School of Law which will certainly flourish as a strong community under the leadership of Dean Smith,” said SMU president Prof Howard Hunter.

Dean Smith has been teaching at Harvard for more than 25 years and has recently been involved in reforming the legal faculties at universities in Hong Kong and Macau.

He has served as adviser to more than 30 governments all over the world, with work aimed at the intersection of law and business.

He told BT that the new law school will keep with SMU’s established vision of a holistic education, stressing the importance of interdisciplinary work in the study of law.

Yeo Tiong Min becomes SMU’s first Yong Pung How Professor of Law. The new endowment is aimed at advancing the study of law in SMU while developing a leading undergraduate law curriculum.

Prof Yeo has been teaching at the Faculty of Law at NUS for more than 17 years and is a leading legal authority in private law.

Michael P Furmston, distinguished legal scholar in the Commonwealth, was also introduced as a further addition to the legal faculty at SMU.

These additions to the SMU law faculty follow government approval for increasing the size of the pioneer intake due to the overwhelming subscription at the new law school.

The upcoming academic year will see 118 students enrolling in Singapore’s new law school, of whom 34 will undertake a double degree.

Prof Hunter said: “We are off to a good start. This provides a valuable opportunity to create a defining institution for the study of law in the 21st century.”