New dean to head SMU School of Law

School also seeks to increase undergraduate intake from 120 to 180

SINGAPORE — The country's first Honorary Senior Counsel, Professor Yeo Tiong Min, 46, will take over as the Singapore Management University's law school dean from July, as the school looks to raise its undergraduate intake.

At a press conference yesterday, Prof Yeo (picture) reportedly said that the school is in discussions with the Ministry of Law on reviewing its undergraduate student intake numbers. It could admit up to 180 undergraduates annually over the next three to five years, up from the current 120, he said.

Prof Yeo takes over from Professor Michael Furmston, 78, who will continue teaching at SMU after stepping down, as well as help the university set up a Centre of Commercial Law. SMU also announced that Professor David Llewelyn, 55, who has been with the university since August 2010, will become Deputy Dean from July.

Prof Yeo paid tribute to his predecessor yesterday and cited the full employment of the university's first graduating cohort as testament to Prof Furmston's leadership.

Prof Yeo said the school will be seeking feedback from employers and will tweak its curriculum to enhance its law programme.

Prof Yeo added: "That we are a young law school allows us the dynamism to review and make on-going adjustments to our programme in a reasonably short timeframe. Not only does this bring greater value to employers, students also benefit because they are more prepared for the challenges of the real world."