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Headline: New SMU business school dean eyes top 20 ranking

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By TJOA SHZE HUI

THE incoming dean of the Singapore Management University (SMU) Lee Kong Chian School of Business aims to make the institution one of the best in the world.

Professor Gerard George told The Straits Times yesterday that he wants to lift the school, now ranked 52nd in the University of Texas at Dallas Top 100 Business Schools league table, into the top 20.

“The better your ranking, the better the opportunities your students get,” he said.

But he noted that the drive for success must not come at the expense of student satisfaction: “We cannot sacrifice student experience for anything.”

Prof George, whose five-year term as dean starts on Jan 1, is now deputy dean of Imperial College Business School in Lon-

don and international dean of BML Munjal University near New Delhi.

He is also the editor of the Academy Of Management Journal, a leading empirical publication in the field of management.

He will replace Professor Howard Thomas, who has finished his tenure and is staying on in the Lee Kong Chian School of Business as a distinguished professor.

SMU president Arnoud De Meyer said he recommended Prof George to the Board of Trustees because of his ability to translate research into practical programmes, his talents

Professor Gerard George starts his five-year term on Jan 1.



as an editor and his experience in leading education institutes.

He also highlighted Prof George’s expertise in growing small and medium-sized enterprises – something of especial relevance to Singapore, where scores of small businesses have sprung up in the past 10 years, only to then struggle to expand.

Indeed, Prof George confirmed that he will be looking for new ways to help the business school leverage on research and talent to deliver a practical boost to the local business community.

“Here in the business school, we are surrounded by a hotbed of regional activity and economic resources,” he said. “All that is missing is a platform to tie it all together – and hopefully, we can use the school’s position as an education leader to become that platform.”

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