

**Speech by Professor Nikolaj Malchow-Møllers
President of Copenhagen Business School
At SMU on 1 October 2019**

Dear Senior Minister of State, dear Ambassador, dear SMU President, dear SMU Provost, thank you for the kind words and the warm welcome we have received here at SMU.

As I know that both of you were recently appointed, I would like to start by congratulating SMU on its new leadership team.

In this respect we are sort of in the same boat. As all of you probably know here at SMU our Dean of Education, Gregor Halff, joined CBS in March 2018.

And my career as the president of CBS is still to be counted in months rather than years.

That, however, is not the case for the relationship between SMU and CBS. Our universities have a history that goes way back.

And SMU and CBS also have many things in common, besides having two new leadership teams. We are both business universities with strong traditions and we are both dominant in our respective regions. Both of us are universities that represent business management in a broad sense.

That I believe gives us a special duty for educating business leaders to society.

Also we are both business schools that have made some changes recently. And we have made these changes, and will make future changes, to maintain the high standards and to meet the demands from the surrounding society.

Back in August 2012, the official strategic partnership between Singapore and Denmark was signed by the former Minister of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, Mr. Ole Sohn.

Believe it or not. Even though it was not part of that long title, Mr. Sohn was also the minister of shipping. And the agreement with Singapore included a special focus on collaboration between two of the world's leading maritime nations: Singapore and Denmark.

SMU and CBS followed up on the official agreement already in January 2014, when Arnoud de Meyer and Per Holten Andersen – our predecessors - signed an important and ambitious Memorandum of Understanding. This MOU made it possible to collaborate between our maritime programs, both in terms of structured student exchanges and in terms of research collaboration.

In the past three academic years – from 2016 to 2019, no less than 89 CBS students have spent an entire semester here at SMU. More than half of them from our maritime programs. This makes SMU a key component of our maritime bachelor education. As a result these programs were in 2016 recognised

by the maritime industry in Denmark as the most important maritime initiative of year.

At SMU I know that you have recently revised the core curriculum of your programmes. At CBS we are just now working on defining the key capabilities of our future graduates.

In fact, it so happened that when Gregor Halff had finished his work on the SMU curriculum he went to CBS and started working on our capability project.

I will like to use this opportunity to thank SMU, the president and the provost for the inspiring, important and innovative collaboration. And for letting go of Gregor 😊

We have a bright history behind us, and together we have an even brighter future ahead of us.

Thank you!