

Moot court among proposed amenities for SMU law building

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SINGAPORE – A moot court to simulate actual court proceedings and meeting rooms to hold pro bono clinics are among the facilities proposed for the Singapore Management University's new law school building.

The five-storey building, which will

be constructed at the open-air car park behind the Substation along Armenian street, will be ready by 2016, TODAY has learnt.

Signs announcing the construction of the new building have been put up at the site. A part of an Urban Redevelopment Authority car park has been "permanently closed for development" since Dec 17, according to one notice.

The proposed site is near a location on which the university is looking to build a short-stay residential college, as reported in The Straits Times on Monday.

Currently, the SMU Law School is in the same building as the School of Accountancy along Stamford Road. Law faculty members have their offices spread across the campus, including at the Lee Kong Chian School of Business. Law students do not have a moot court to hone their legal skills, but use seminar rooms instead. In contrast, law undergraduates at the National University of Singapore have their own campus at Bukit Timah Road, along with a moot court.

This is about to change at SMU, as plans are in the pipeline for a dedicated law library at the new building, and faculty members could also be moved to be under one roof.

Apart from facilities for law school students and staff, there could be a thousand-seater auditorium and larger seminar rooms that can accommodate up to 90 people. These amenities will be made available to SMU staff and students. The Government had previously announced that SMU will increase its intake of law students from 120 to 180 in the coming years.

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