

Publication: TODAY, p 15

Date: 16 May 2015

Headline: Amphitheatre, expanded gym part of S\$20m SMU makeover

Amphitheatre, expanded gym part of S\$20m SMU makeover

SINGAPORE – With its current student population exceeding its campus capacity by a third, Singapore Management University (SMU) is spending S\$20 million on a makeover.

On the cards are plans to convert concourse spaces into teaching and learning facilities, add larger seminar rooms that seat about 70 each, and carve out more group-study spaces.

The work will be completed by the third quarter of 2017, and include an expanded gym and a new 240-seat amphitheatre to be built on the lawn between the Singapore Art Museum and National Museum of Singapore.

A 400m jogging route around the lawn, called Campus Green, will be built and open to public use.

Altogether, the facilities will add a total seating capacity of 1,185. These redevelopment plans follow several

initiatives the university has undertaken to create more space for its students, including renovating the Li Ka Shing Library to increase its seating capacity and leasing the former Vanguard Building to create a 24-hour study space.

Speaking at a briefing yesterday on the redevelopments, SMU president Arnoud de Meyer said the university is committed to providing adequate and flexible learning and teaching spaces.

He also pointed to the addition of spaces for students to collaborate, network and carry out recreational activities.

“These days, students learn in a much more experiential way. They do projects and learn from discussions with one another. They have all the information at their fingertips through websites and the Internet. Their way

An artist's impression of SMU's revamped Campus Green, the lawn between the Singapore Art Museum and National Museum of Singapore.

PHOTO: SMU



of learning is very different and we need to ensure we have the right facilities to support that learning,” said Prof De Meyer.

Responding to TODAY’s queries, the Office of Campus Development’s

director Sundaravadivelan Selvam said the university had staggered the timeline of the work to ensure spaces are not taken away entirely from students.

LAURA PHILOMIN