



27 August 2021

Dear USP Colleagues, Students and Alumni,

I am excited to inform you about two important developments that will allow NUS to deliver flexible, interdisciplinary education more accessibly, and at greater scale.

We will be establishing two new interdisciplinary colleges: a **New College**, that brings together the University Scholars Programme (USP) and Yale-NUS College (Yale-NUS); and the **College of Design and Engineering (CDE)**, which combines the Faculty of Engineering with the School of Design and Environment.

These developments are part of ongoing educational innovations at NUS, to produce graduates who are curious problem chasers, innovative problem solvers and passionate lifelong learners, adept at connecting the dots across diverse disciplines.

Understandably, some of you may have many questions about the establishment of the New College. Let me first assure you that we are committed to ensuring as much continuity as possible for all of you.

All current USP undergraduates will transition into the New College from Academic Year 2022/23. For USP Year 2 students, the current curriculum will remain unchanged throughout Academic Year 2022/23. Students will graduate with the undergraduate degree of their home faculty or school conferred by NUS, with USP and/or New College certification.

To our USP faculty and staff, I would like to assure you that your contracts will be honoured, and there will be no redundancies. Many operations will stay status quo, but some may gradually change as we make the transition. Staff will have the opportunity to be deployed to the New College or other NUS departments at a similar seniority level. We will be in touch with all faculty and staff members in the coming days to set a meeting with each of you to discuss this further.

To USP alumni, we value your continued support. You will continue to be alumni of NUS, and also recognised as alumni of the New College.

Since its establishment in 2001, USP has admitted thousands of students from seven faculties and schools in NUS. We are proud to say that USP remains a highly competitive and popular interdisciplinary programme, which has a reputation of producing outstanding thinkers and doers. It is heartening to note that graduates of USP have been highly regarded by employers in Singapore and abroad. All of you have played a critical part towards USP's success.

One of the key characteristics of the USP is its distinctive curriculum that gives students the intellectual breadth and depth of a rigorous interdisciplinary education. The USP experience also includes a residential component in Cinnamon College, as well as international academic and community programmes and projects. All these features will be brought over to the New College.

The New College will retain the best features of USP, combined with that of Yale-NUS, to deliver an outstanding interdisciplinary liberal arts education. We aim to take all we have learnt from both USP and Yale-NUS, and bring them forward in their new incarnation. The New College will be a new identity that maintains the continuity of both in an exciting new way.

A New College Planning Committee, chaired by NUS Senior Deputy President and Provost Professor Ho Teck Hua and comprising leaders from USP and Yale-NUS, Yale, as well as NUS, will continue the development of the plan for the New College, and how it will combine the best of USP and Yale-NUS. The planning committee will focus on key areas such as the new common curriculum for the New College, staff matters, transition plans, admissions as well as residential and student life.

We recognise that this will be a period of transition for all of you. It is one of our top priorities to ensure that students will continue to receive a broad-based curriculum that balances both breadth and depth to give them an immersive, interdisciplinary education.

Arising from this evolution, current USP students can expect deeper, richer opportunities in areas including the curriculum, student life and residential learning. The USP experience will not be compromised, but instead, enhanced.

We have great respect and admiration for what both USP and Yale-NUS have built over the years, and we truly believe this is an incredible opportunity for all of us, collectively, to build on this legacy. We are very focused on making sure the New College reflects the very best of both its predecessors.

We recognise that this is a significant announcement, and we will try our best to address any questions or concerns that you may have. Q&A sessions have been arranged for both students as well as faculty and staff where more time will be allocated to answer your questions.

If you would like to find out more details about the two new colleges, please read the [NUS News](#).

Beyond this, please reach out to us, or the USP leadership team, should you have further queries or concerns on this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Professor Tan Eng Chye
President, National University of Singapore

Professor Ho Teck Hua
Senior Deputy President and Provost, National University of Singapore