



27 August 2021

Dear Yale-NUS 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 Yale-NUS College (Yale-NUS) and University Scholars Programme (USP); 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 all of you that we are committed to ensuring as much continuity as possible for everyone.

For students who are currently enrolled at Yale-NUS, you will continue to enjoy the full Yale-NUS experience – the wide array of programmes, partnerships and opportunities – as the College will continue through 2025. You will earn the same Yale-NUS degree as your predecessors. This is our commitment to you.

For Yale-NUS faculty and staff, I would like to assure you that your contracts will be honoured, and there will be no redundancies. Faculty will continue to teach college modules until 2025, though many may also be involved in teaching the common curriculum at the New College. 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.

For Yale-NUS alumni, your continued support is important to us. Following the establishment of the New College, you will continue to be alumni of both Yale-NUS College and NUS, and also be recognised as alumni of the New College. In addition, you will remain International Affiliates of the Yale Alumni Association.

We have enjoyed a close friendship and established a strong bond with Yale since 2001, and are proud to have pioneered a model of liberal arts education in Singapore and Asia that is trailblazing, distinctive and world-renowned. We had a vision to develop a unique model of liberal arts education contextualised to Asia in the 21st century, and that has been achieved. Both NUS and Yale are extremely proud of what Yale-NUS has accomplished over the past 10 years. Our longstanding friendship will remain, and Yale will continue to play an advisory role in the New College as a pioneering member of the international advisory panel of the New College.

We have great respect and admiration for what both Yale-NUS and USP 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.

A New College Planning Committee, chaired by NUS Senior Deputy President and Provost Professor Ho Teck Hua and comprising leaders from Yale-NUS and USP, Yale, as well as NUS, will continue the development of the plan for the New College, and how it will combine the best of Yale-NUS and USP. 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 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 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 [NUS News](#). Yale University President Professor Peter Salovey's statement can be read [here](#), and the Yale News story at this [link](#).

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

Thank you and please continue to keep safe.

With best wishes,

Professor Tan Eng Chye
President, National University of Singapore