

# LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS



## Mr Piyush Gupta appointed Chairman of SMU

On 12 January 2023, Mr Piyush Gupta was appointed Chairman of SMU, where he will play a pivotal role in shaping the university's strategic direction, fostering innovation, collaboration, and academic excellence. With his visionary leadership, SMU will continue to thrive as a distinguished institution, nurturing future leaders and contributing to Singapore's knowledge-driven economy.

With a noteworthy tenure as Chief Executive Officer and Director of DBS Group since 2009, Mr Gupta brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of transformative leadership to his new role at SMU. Mr Gupta earned recognition as one of the world's top-performing chief executives in the *Harvard Business Review's* "The CEO 100" in 2019.

In addition to his corporate achievements, Mr Gupta serves as Vice-Chairman of the Institute of International Finance and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development Executive Committee.

He is a member of Singapore's Advisory Council on the Ethical Use of AI and Data, the Bretton Woods Committee - Advisory Council, and holds positions on the boards of Singapore's National Research Foundation and Council for Board Diversity.

Mr Gupta's dedication to public service led to the prestigious Public Service Star awarded by the President of Singapore in 2020.



## Professor Lily Kong re-appointed President of SMU

Professor Lily Kong has been re-appointed as President of SMU for five years, until 31 December 2028.

Prof Kong has been a visionary leader at SMU, driving impactful education and research initiatives, elevating the university's international profile, and strengthening its commitment to sustainability. She demonstrated exceptional leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic by spearheading a whole-of-university response to address academic, financial, and infrastructural matters, ensuring the well-being of our faculty, staff, and students.

During her first term, Prof Kong drove the establishment of the College of Integrative Studies and the College of Graduate Research Studies, as well as the upcoming launch of a research institute dedicated to the study of cities. She has also chaired the International Advisory Council (IAC) Steering Committee, fostering growth and establishing the first Overseas Centre in Jakarta.

Under Prof Kong's presidency, SMU's green buildings - SMU Connexion and the School of Social Sciences/College of Integrative Studies - have been recognised for their commitment to environmental sustainability.

Prof Kong has also dedicated herself to SMU's growth through fundraising efforts and infrastructure-development leadership, surpassing fundraising targets and securing substantial gifts for students and key initiatives. Moreover, the recent Quality Assurance Framework for Universities (QAFU) exercise affirms SMU's commitment to excellence and continuous improvement.

Prof Kong's commitment to excellence has helped SMU to become a top-tier university in Asia, and she will lead SMU to even greater heights in the years to come.



## Ms Chan Wai Leng appointed Vice President (Advancement and Alumni Relations)

Ms Chan Wai Leng was appointed as Vice President (Advancement and Alumni Relations) from 1 April 2023. Ms Chan has played an instrumental role in SMU's development agenda and fundraising operations as Director of Advancement since 2015, by building strong relationships with donors and internal stakeholders. As Vice President (Advancement and Alumni Relations), she will shape the strategic direction of and foster deeper coordination within and across fundraising and alumni relations, contributing to SMU's collective goal of growing the University's brand and reputation.

Ms Chan has also been appointed as a member of the President's External Engagement Council (PEEC) chaired by SMU President Professor Lily Kong. The PEEC will deepen the University's engagement with external stakeholders, cultivate alumni networks and strengthen the SMU brand. The council has three leaders working in close collaboration: Mr Christopher Chew, Vice President (Corporate Communications and Marketing), Prof Lim Sun Sun, Vice President (Partnerships and Engagement), and Ms Chan.



## Ms Yvonne Chan appointed Chief Financial Officer and Vice President (Finance)

SMU appointed Ms Yvonne Chan as its Chief Financial Officer and Vice President, Finance, on 1 November 2022.

With nearly 30 years of senior-level accounting and finance experience, including prior roles as CFO at Enterprise Singapore and Finance Director at MTV Asia LDC, Ms Chan brings a wealth of expertise to her new role.

Reporting directly to Senior Vice President (Administration) Mr Hugh Edmiston, Ms Chan will address the increasing demands for financial strategic planning, improved monitoring and reporting, and compliance obligations faced by SMU and global organisations. She will also spearhead the forward planning of financial resources to support the University's strategic objectives and long-term growth plans.

She will be supported by a skilled team, including Ms Poon Keen Teng, overseeing financial operations; Ms Pamelin Ho, responsible for financial planning and reporting; and Ms Antoinette Zung, leading finance-business partnering.

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### **Dr Cheong Wei Yang** appointed Vice Provost (Strategic Research Partnerships)

Dr Cheong Wei Yang was appointed Vice Provost (Strategic Research Partnerships), effective 1 August 2023. He holds a joint appointment with the Ministry of Health. In his role at SMU, Dr Cheong will collaborate with SMU faculty across Schools, and Institutes, Centres and Labs (ICLs), to identify, nurture, and deepen collaborative relationships that advance the University's research agenda. Partnering with the Vice Provost (Research), Vice President (Partnership and Engagement), and Schools and ICLs, he will plan and develop highly strategic research grant proposals aligned with national research and development (R&D) priorities across the STEM, Social Sciences and Humanities, with a focus on integrating SMU into the local ecosystem of public agencies and research institutions.

In addition to serving at the Ministry of Health, Dr Cheong has also served in the Ministry of Education and the National Research Foundation. He also served and continues to serve on the boards of several medical, research and civic institutions.



### **Mr Lim Boon Wee** appointed Senior Vice President (Transformation)

Mr Lim Boon Wee has been appointed Senior Vice President (Transformation), effective 20 September 2023. Reporting to the President, Boon Wee will work closely with Senior Vice President (Administration) Mr Hugh Edmiston and serve as co-chair of SMU's transformation projects. As co-chairs, Mr Edmiston and Mr Lim will lead the transformation projects in the first instance. As Mr Edmiston will step down in August 2024, Mr Lim will assume the role of Senior Vice President (Administration). In due time, more details about the transition will be shared.

Mr Lim, was a Deputy Secretary (Services) at the Ministry of Education (MOE) and provided leadership oversight over several divisions/branches of about 1,000 in total staff strength in various departments. He also served as MOE's Chief Digitalisation Officer, Chief Sustainability Officer, oversaw workforce strategies and strategic resourcing issues, and was a key member of MOE's overall transformation efforts from digitalisation and ops-tech to the School of the Future and Classroom of the Future initiatives. He has previously held senior positions in the Ministries of Finance, National Development, and Transport. He served in the President's Office as the Principal Private Secretary to the former President of Singapore, Mr S R Nathan, whilst concurrently serving as Secretary to the Council of Presidential Advisors. He has also held Board/Director (or equivalent) positions in various public sector organisations, including CISCO (1999-2002), SPRING Singapore (2004-12) and SMU (Member of Board of Trustees from 2014-18).



### **Professor Lim Sun Sun** appointed Vice President (Partnerships and Engagement)

Professor Lim Sun Sun, Communication and Technology Professor at SMU College of Integrative Studies, has been appointed from 1 December 2022 as Vice President for Partnerships and Engagement. Prof Lim will lead teams to deliver SMU's strategy to be an Engaged City University, primarily in the areas of industry partnership, innovation and entrepreneurship, and international partnerships.

A highly experienced academic and thought leader with over 20 years of experience in higher education, Prof Lim has a strong track record of research on the social impact of technology and profoundly understands the challenges and opportunities facing universities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Prof Lim will play a pivotal role in leading SMU's efforts to be an Engaged City University and to make a meaningful impact on Singapore and the world.

