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PRESS RELEASE

CHANGE OF DEAN AT SMU LAW SCHOOL

Singapore, 8 August 2007 – The Singapore Management University (SMU) is announcing a change of Deanship at its School of Law. Professor Michael P. Furmston will now assume the Deanship at the School of Law as Professor David N. Smith (史达伟), who was originally appointed as Dean, is unable to take up the appointment due to unanticipated personal reasons.

Professor Furmston is one of the most distinguished contracts and commercial law scholars in the world. The former Oxford Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Bristol is best known for his book, *Cheshire, Fifoot & Furmston on Contract* which remains one of the leading treatises on contract law more than 50 years after its first publication. A leading international authority today in the law of contract, Professor Furmston was educated at the University of Oxford and also taught at the University of Birmingham and Queen's University, Belfast. His experience in legal education spans across 50 years. He is also a member of the UNIDROIT (International Institute for the Unification of Private Law). Please see [Annex](#) for his CV.

Associate Professor Low Kee Yang (刘启扬), former Interim Dean of the School of Law, will serve as Deputy Dean during the period of transition and provide leadership support. Professor Furmston will also be assisted by two Associate Deans – Associate Professor Pearlle Koh (高明珠) who oversees research and Assistant Professor Gary Chan (陈国耀) who is responsible for teaching and curriculum planning.

Said Professor Howard Hunter, President of SMU: "It is with much regret that Professor Smith is unable to assume leadership of the School of Law arising from unanticipated personal reasons which we respect. He will remain as a senior member of the faculty and special adviser to the President on legal education, and continue to contribute to the teaching of law at SMU. The new Dean, Professor Furmston has served with great distinction as the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Bristol for a number of years. Professor Furmston knows Singapore well and, prior to his recent appointment as Professor of Law at SMU, he has taught at SMU as a Visiting Professor and worked with our younger law faculty. I am confident that he will be an outstanding and experienced leader who can help us continue to build a law school of the highest quality."

Said Professor David N. Smith: "As special adviser to the President and a senior member of the law faculty in SMU, I value the opportunity to contribute to the development of the School of Law as well as research and teaching of foreign investment, transnational

companies, negotiation, and other subjects. A substantial part of my teaching, programme development and advisory work over the years, including more than 30 years at Harvard Law School, have been at the intersection of law and business. I look forward to sharing my experience in legal education and mentoring younger faculty at SMU in building a fine law school in Asia. I know that Professor Furmston will provide excellent leadership for the school.”

Said Professor Michael P. Furmston, Dean of the School of Law, SMU: “It is a privilege to be appointed the Dean of the new law school at SMU. Singapore has always produced fine lawyers and legal talents from my many years of interaction with and training of graduate and undergraduate students both at Oxford and Bristol. I am confident that with a second law school at SMU, we will be able to groom and nurture a new generation of young lawyers with a solid foundation in legal principles, an aptitude in understanding the business world while embodying strong values of ethics and social consciousness.”

Professor Furmston takes up his duties as Dean of the School of Law with immediate effect.

For media queries, please contact:

Mr Chua Loo Lin
Assistant Director
Office of Corporate Communications
Singapore Management University
DID: 68280235
Email: llchua@smu.edu.sg

About Singapore Management University

Incorporated on 12 January 2000, Singapore Management University (SMU) aims to groom outstanding business leaders and creative entrepreneurs capable of excelling in a rapidly changing and dynamic world. Today, SMU is home to over 4,700 students and comprises six schools: Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Accountancy, School of Economics, School of Social Sciences, School of Information Systems and School of Law. SMU offers bachelor’s, master’s and PhD degree programmes in business and management-related areas, ranging from Accountancy, Economics, Finance, Wealth Management, Law, Information Systems and Social Science. It also has a dedicated Office of Research, a number of centres of excellence, and provides public and customised programmes through Executive Education. Collaborations with leading institutions, including The Wharton School, Carnegie Mellon, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago, allow SMU to draw on academic and research strengths across all major disciplines. The SMU campus is a state-of-the-art facility located right in the heart of Singapore's civic and business district. www.smu.edu.sg

CURRICULUM VITAE

About Professor Michael P. Furmston

Professor Michael P. Furmston was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1960 and has been a Bencher of Gray's Inn since 1989. He studied law at the University of Oxford and taught at the University of Birmingham, Queen's University, Belfast and University of Oxford before moving to Bristol in 1978. He was appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Bristol for two terms and also served as Pro Vice-Chancellor from 1986 to 1989 before retiring in 1998. He was appointed Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Fellow at Bristol. Professor Furmston is a member of the UNIDROIT (International Institute for the Unification of Private Law) working group which has produced a set of General Principles for International Commercial Contracts. He sits on the editorial boards of the Journal of Contract Law and Construction Law Journal, amongst others. He has been the editor for the last 30 years of *Cheshire, Fifoot & Furmston on Contract* (currently into its 15th edition, August 2006) and the joint author of *Beale, Bishop & Furmston: Cases and Materials on Contract*. He has also written books, articles in the fields of Sale of Goods and Construction Law. He is the editor of the Construction Law Reports.