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PRESS RELEASE

SMU appoints Bryce Hool as Economics Dean

Experienced academic leader Professor Bryce Hool of the University of Auckland will take up position in SMU from January 2012.

Singapore, 29 Nov 2011 (Tuesday) – The Singapore Management University (SMU) has appointed Professor Bryce Hool from the University of Auckland as Dean of the School of Economics from 1 January 2012 for a five-year term. Currently a Professor of Economics at the New Zealand university, Professor Hool has served in senior management and leadership positions at universities in the US and New Zealand for 21 years.

Professor Hool has spent 15 years with the University of Auckland between 1996 and now, holding the positions of Professor of Economics, Head of the Department of Economics and Associate Dean (International) of the Faculty of Business and Economics. Under his leadership, the department rose to top national research ranking and became among the top economics schools in the southern hemisphere. Professor Hool also chaired and served on many leadership committees and advisory groups on academic review, academic staffing and funding, including being a member of the Academic Standards Council of Universitas 21, a consortium of universities in Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Americas.

Prior to that, he was with the State University of New York at Stony Brook for 17 years, in various appointments as Professor of Economics, Chair of the Department of Economics, Director of the Institute for Decision Sciences, Dean of the Division of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Chair of the Council of Deans and rising to Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. Among his achievements at Stony Brook were major interdisciplinary programme developments, including the expansion of the Institute for Decision Sciences and the establishment of the Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Professor Hool graduated with a Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours in Mathematics) at the University of Canterbury before obtaining his Master of Commerce (First Class Honours in Economics) at the same university. He completed his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley. Professor Hool began his academic career at the University of Wisconsin at Madison as an Assistant Professor of Economics for five years before moving on to the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He was also a Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics' International Centre for Economics and Related Disciplines.

Professor Hool's primary research interest is in natural resources. His current research focuses on the extraction of exhaustible resources and optimal payment schemes for extraction contracts.

SMU President, Professor Arnoud De Meyer said, "Professor Hool shares our vision of a broad-based, multi-disciplinary education and is attracted to the dynamism and aspirations of the university. He has also demonstrated an ability to work across teams to achieve results that benefit the university as a whole. This includes the academic reviews and task forces he has chaired, while at the University of Auckland. We look forward to working with him and the rest of the team to jointly realise the SMU vision of excellence in research and teaching."

SMU Provost and Deputy President (Academic Affairs), [Professor Rajendra K. Srivastava](#) said, " Professor Hool is an acclaimed scholar in economics with more than 30 years of experience in research and teaching. He has shown his multi-disciplinary edge and versatility when as Dean of the Division of Social and Behavioural Sciences, he set up the Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. "

Dean-designate of SMU School of Economics, Professor Bryce Hool remarked, "I am truly excited about joining the leadership team at SMU and the opportunity to contribute to realising the great potential of the School of Economics. The University has been remarkably successful in setting and achieving clear goals and directions for innovative undergraduate education and high-quality research with particular relevance for Singapore."

In the most recent edition of **Tilburg University's Top 100 Worldwide Economics Schools research ranking, SMU School of Economics ranks 5th in the world and 1 st in Asia, in the field of Econometrics**, based on research publications in top journals for 2009-2010.

Professor Bryce Hool said, "The School of Economics has already established itself as one of the leading economic research centres in Asia; indeed, in the field of financial econometrics, it ranks among the best in the world. We will build on the existing strengths to expand other areas of research excellence, again with an emphasis on Singapore's economic interests. We will continue to deliver an innovative and relevant undergraduate curriculum and develop multidisciplinary postgraduate programs with those same qualities."

Professor Phang Sock Yong (潘淑莹), the current Interim Dean of the School of Economics, who has helmed the school for the last 17 months, will take a one-year sabbatical.

In appreciation, Professor Arnoud De Meyer said, "I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Interim Dean Professor Phang Sock Yong for her very effective leadership of the School of Economics over the past 17 months. I look forward to her continuing contributions to the overall growth and development of SMU. "

Please refer to the [Annex](#) for details.

ANNEX:

SMU SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Introduction

On 1 July 2002, the School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS) was established to launch the Bachelor of Science undergraduate degree programme majoring in Economics, and subsequently the Bachelor of Social Science undergraduate degree programme majoring in Psychology, Sociology, or Political Science.

In April 2007, the School of Economics and the School of Social Sciences were established as separate schools to focus on the development of the undergraduate and graduate curricula and programmes, as well as faculty research.

Interim Dean

Professor Phang Sock Yong was appointed as the Interim Dean of the School of Social Sciences on 1 July 2010, a position she has held for the past 17 months.

Faculty

The School recruits top class faculty from around the world to build an exciting diversity of talent.

As of Sep 2011, the School of Economics has a total of 37 full-time faculty. They have extensive experience in research, teaching, and consultancy, and hold PhDs from top-ranking universities.

A number of faculty members serve as members on national councils, editors or editorial board members of prestigious scholarly journals, and are recipients of international scholarly awards.

Students

As of Sep 2011, the School of Economics has 845 students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Economics programme. The intake of students comprises A-level students, polytechnics graduates, and international students. A number of students are recipients of scholarship awards such as The Li Ka Shing Scholarship, SMU Scholarship, NOL Scholarship and Foreign Student Endowment Scholarship.

15 students are enrolled in the PhD and Master of Science programmes in Economics by Research and another 48 in the Master of Science programme in Applied Economics.

Bachelor in Science (Economics)

The mission of the School of Economics is to accelerate the growth of SMU by creating a world-class centre of research and teaching in economics. Economic research form a key factor in the development of Singapore Management University as a foremost academic institution in "generating cutting-edge research with global impact and producing broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy." Economic theory and analysis underlie many of the major business disciplines. For example, Introductory Economics is a Foundation course in the curriculum of both the Business and Accountancy Schools at SMU. International Economics is a compulsory course for Business

Management students; and Economic Theory and Econometrics are building blocks for the study of Finance. Many sub-disciplines in Economics provide the foundations for business and management area studies like consumer behaviour, decision sciences, marketing and organisational behaviour.

The Economics degree programme is designed to provide a strong understanding of modern economic theory, inculcate independent thought about economic policies and problems, develop the capacity for quantitative research, and provide descriptive knowledge about the local and global economy. Beyond the conventional economics curriculum, the School offers the flexibility to specialise in the Quantitative Economics Track (QET).

The BSc (Econ) is a full-time four-year direct meritorious honours programme. Some students can expect to complete the programme in less than four years with advanced standing or fast-tracking by taking some courses in the third term. On successful completion of the BSc (Econ) programme, students will be awarded the BSc (Econ) degree accordingly, depending on their overall performance: BSc (Econ) cum laude (with honours), BSc (Econ) magna cum laude (with high honours) or BSc (Econ) summa cum laude (with highest honours).

Pedagogy

Lessons are not taught in the traditional lecture and tutorial format in big lecture theatres. In fact, at SMU, they are taught in small MBA-style seminar rooms, where students are not passive listeners. They are encouraged to speak up and present their arguments in a clear and convincing manner. In this way, students sharpen their critical and thinking ability, communication and presentation skills, which are crucial skills needed in the corporate world. Because every student must participate in class, discussions and debates become lively and enjoyable.

The learning environment is therefore intellectually challenging and stimulating, bringing out the best in a student and preparing them to be a step ahead of the competition when they graduate. They will emerge a well-rounded person, capable of adapting and thriving in the fast-changing world.

Postgraduate Programmes

The Master of Science in Applied Economics is a part-time programme by coursework. An intensively-taught programme, it is targeted at higher-middle to middle level industry practitioners mainly from the science, engineering, and social science backgrounds, who wish to acquire a good working knowledge of economics, which is increasingly needed in their career and by the economy.

The School also offers research degree programmes designed to equip graduates with rigorous knowledge of economic analysis and applications for diverse careers in academia, industry, public sector and international organisations. Many of the graduates from the MSc (Econ) programme continue to pursue a PhD degree in Economics after their graduation.

Research

Faculty members in the School of Economics are active in research, and have published in journals such as *Econometrica*, *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Economic Theory*, *Econometric Theory*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *International Economic Review*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Econometrics*, *Journal of International Economics*, *Social Choice and Welfare*, *Journal of*

Business and Economic Statistics, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Journal of the American Statistical Association, and Biometrics.

The School has implemented a Research Collaboration Programme to inculcate a vibrant research environment and to promote global collaboration with research scholars of leading universities around the world. Through this programme, researchers are invited and supported by the School for short-term visits of about one to four weeks for joint research with the School's faculty.

From 2004 to 2007, the school organised annually the Singapore Econometrics Study Group Meetings that brought together active researchers to present their work over a couple of days. The Singapore Econometrics Study Group evolved into the Centre for Financial Econometrics, one of four centres under the Sim Kee Boon Institute of Financial Economics (SKBI) when the Institute was established in 2008.

Through the Distinguished Lecture Series, eminent scholars are invited to deliver lectures to the academic faculty and general public. Nobel Laureate Lawrence Klein from the University of Pennsylvania, Ronald McKinnon from Stanford University, Peter Phillips from Yale University, Nobel Laureate Edmund S Phelps from Columbia University and Nobel Laureate Robert Engle from New York University are among the speakers invited to deliver lectures under the Series.

The School has a Working Paper Series that publishes the preliminary research findings of the faculty. Many of these papers are subsequently published in scholarly journals.

To promote the dissemination of research findings, the School also holds a regular seminar series in economics and statistics, featuring presentations by in-house faculty and regional and international speakers.