SIT to be full-fledged university by 2014

Work-cum-study scheme a feature of its autonomous varsity blueprint

By STACEY CHIA and SANDRA DAVE

The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) will become an autonomous university by 2014, senior minister of state for education Lawrence Wong said yesterday.

When that happens, it will go beyond its current mandate to offer three- and four-year degree courses.

When SIT was marked as one of two new degree-granting institutions, it was noted that the programme would feature work-cum-study schemes.

Senior Minister of State for Education Lawrence Wong, who led the committee that looked into expanding university places, said SIT was picked to offer the applied degree pathway because it already had several elements of such a model.

“The idea is that you have close links with the industry. Last year, there were 14 industry partners sponsoring scholarships for 2 per cent of its students. We felt noted in a press statement yesterday that SIT’s current universities already have a ‘strong applied element’, such as in engineering and allied health.

When asked if polytechnic students will take to the cooperative programme requiring them to combine work and study, Prof Tan said such an education is not new to students.

He said that for the programme, employers and work experiences of the students will be carefully selected to ensure they build on what is taught in class.

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PHOTO: SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Full-time degree courses for UniSIM students

By STACEY CHIA

STUDENTS who apply to the new full-time degree programmes at SIM University (UniSIM) will be able to choose between day and evening classes.

The programme will also feature an increased interaction between the universities’ younger students in the new programme, and older students in its part-time, under-graduates.

UniSIM president Cheong Hee Kiat noted that the cooperative education programme would make their courses longer, they realised it was “not so much of a trade-off” when it was pointed out to them.

The programs’ offerings such as in engineering (alumnus already have a ‘strong applied element’, such as in engineering and allied health.

“Work-cum-study schemes are a feature of its autonomous varsity blueprint. They realise that this adds value to their experience and to their ability to get a good job in the end,” he said.

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