Yale-NUS outlines its vision, mission

College will redefine liberal arts, science for a complex and interconnected world

By KEZIA TOH

YALE-NUS College, due to open its doors next year, has released its vision and mission in a statement to The Straits Times.

Its vision sees the college as “a community of learning, founded by two great universities in Asia, for the world”.

Its mission is to “redefine liberal arts and science education for a complex, interconnected world.”

It goes on to state that it is to be a community of learning where “living and learning are intertwined and habits of creativity, curiosity and critical thinking are encouraged”.

It also aims to “educate citizens of the world and uphold the principles of free exchange of ideas, pluralism and respect for diversity”.

The joint partnership – between Yale University in the United States and the National University of Singapore – had earlier this year come under fire from critics in the US who said that it went against the American university’s principles of civil liberty and political freedom.

The vision and mission statements were formulated by faculty members over the past two months before being endorsed by the board of governors.

Students also gave their input informally, said incoming Yale-NUS undergraduate Amanda Lee, 19, who was asked to submit her hopes and dreams for the school.

She said: “I’m happy to see my thoughts reflected – that I hope the college would start a new kind of education which is interactive and links different disciplines such as literature, history and anthropology – as Singapore is set to be the capital of Asia.”

The college is also recruiting students from around the world to top up its current pool of 50 students, most of whom are Singaporeans.

In the next few months, members of the Yale-NUS admissions team will travel to top schools in 21 countries, including India, China and the United States.

The college will take in its first cohort of 150 students, who can choose between 14 majors such as anthropology, urban studies and life sciences and two joint degrees.

When they graduate, their scrolls will include the Yale-NUS College name.

The college now has about 40 faculty staff, and will hire a total of 100 faculty members by 2013.

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