LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

Professor Kenneth Benoit appointed Dean of the School of Social Sciences

Professor Kenneth Benoit has joined SMU as the new Dean of the School of Social Sciences (SOSS) on 1 August 2024. Formerly a Professor of Computational Social Science and director of the Data Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Prof Benoit brings extensive expertise in natural language processing, focusing on computational methods for large textual data, especially political texts and social media. He also holds positions at Australian National University, Trinity College Dublin, and Central European University in Budapest. His appointment, following an extensive global search, is strongly supported by SMU's leadership and stakeholders.

Professor Li Jia appointed Dean of the School of Economics

Lee Kong Chian Professor of Economics Li Jia has been appointed Dean of the School of Economics (SOE) at SMU, effective 1 July 2024, for a four-year term. His appointment, endorsed by the SMU Board of Trustees, President, and SOE faculty, followed a rigorous worldwide search. Professor Li holds a PhD in Economics from Princeton University. He began his academic career at Duke University, later joining SMU in 2021. He specialises in econometrics with financial applications and has published his research in leading journals. Prof Li has also held significant roles at SMU, contributing to various academic and administrative initiatives.