Cham steps down as Nafa chairman

Prof Cham Tao Soon will relinquish the post he has held for a decade to board member Low Sin Leng.

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Come next month, the 75-year-old Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Nafa) will bid goodbye to its longest-serving chairman and welcome its first female board leader.

Professor Cham Tao Soon, 74, will step down as chairman of the arts institution from Aug 1 after being at its helm for 10 years. Current board member Low Sin Leng, 61, is the incoming chairman.

Prof Cham, who is also chancellor and chairman of SIM University's board of trustees, has decided to step down from Nafa's board to reduce his workload after a personal review of his commitments to a number of boards.

His other board engagements include leading the NSL Group of industrial companies as chairman and the Singapore Press Holdings as deputy chairman. He is also a director on the board of United Overseas Bank.

Of his departure, Prof Cham said: “I am glad to have watched Nafa grow under my tenure. It has moved from an old campus in Middle Road to a new one in Bencoolen Street.”

He added: “I am pleased that a capable person is succeeding me to bring Nafa to greater heights.”

Ms Low, who is senior adviser at Sembcorp Development, the urban development business unit of Sembcorp Industries, has been serving on Nafa’s board as one of its directors since last year.

She is also chairman of the Sino-Singapore (Chengdu) Innovation Park Development, which launched the Singapore-Sichuan Hi-tech Innovation Park in 2011.

She also sits on the board of trustees of the Singapore University of Technology and Design.

A President’s Scholar, she holds a bachelor of electrical engineering from the University of Alberta and a master’s in business administration from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

She said: “I am honoured to have the opportunity to make a contribution to Nafa. Nafa has an illustrious history and is a leading arts school in Singapore. Together with the board and management, I would like to further enhance this forward-looking and prestigious arts college.”

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