Parents, students, friends and colleagues,

Good morning and welcome to NTU’s first ever Parents’ Day!

Parents are an important part of the university community. Some parents already know us because they are alumni themselves. Indeed they may have consciously or subconsciously influenced their sons or daughters to come to NTU because of the memorable experience they have had themselves. The Parent’s Day at NTU, the first such event among Singapore universities, is conceived to welcome the parents of our students to the NTU community. Our
students rely on your invaluable support to make a success of their experience at NTU, and eventually in their careers.

For some of the parents present today, this is the first time you are setting foot on our campus at Yunnan Garden. I would like to extend you an especially warm welcome to NTU. Today’s event is a unique opportunity to gain an insight into the environment that your sons and daughters have chosen to immerse themselves in for the next three or four years. I am glad that you have taken the time out of your busy schedules to join us.

NTU today has a global reputation and place among the top one per cent of universities in the world. It is a research-intensive university creating new knowledge that we share with all our students. We have the fourth ranked engineering college in the world, the 24th ranked business school, and rapidly emerging world leading centres of excellence in science. Our humanities, art and social sciences present a unique blend of art and literature, economics and psychology and a top rated communications and media programme immeasurably enriching our education experience. On the horizon we are working on a medical school that will leverage on our existing strengths to add an exciting new dimension to our university’s
academic profile, as well as make waves in the medical education scene in Singapore.

As parents, I am sure that the pursuit of academic excellence and a successful career by your sons and daughters is your main concern. Our University is dedicated and well prepared and equipped to ensure that your children receive the world class education that they deserve.

An education at NTU is much more than graduating with an internationally recognised and highly sought after degree. It is about imbuing our graduates with the vaunted Nantah spirit so that whatever adversity they face in life, they have the toughness and the mental strength to overcome all obstacles.

For example, in the early days when Nantah degrees were not recognised by colonial authorities, many Nantah graduates chose to pursue further studies overseas which enabled them to become successful academics, accountants, engineers and businessmen amongst other professions. Some also became active in politics, helping to shape the development of our young nation. When the first Nanyang Technological Institute graduates in 1985 ran smack into a
recession, they redefined their careers and became entrepreneurs, the seed of the entrenched entrepreneurial culture you see in NTU today.

Indeed, this unwavering can-do spirit that has become the hallmark of the Nanyang graduate is what we seek to instil in your sons and daughters during their time here, learning and living amongst one another. While success is often measured by how quickly they secure employment after graduation, it is their ability to respond to the trials and tribulations that will inevitably come their way in the course of their lives and careers that will differentiate them from others.

It is my sincere hope that the years spent here at NTU will not only equip your sons and daughters with the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in their chosen professions, but more crucially, give them the strength and resilience of character to tackle whatever challenges they may encounter in a world rife with economic and political uncertainty.

I am also confident that the relationships they cultivate during their time here will prove to be extremely helpful professional and social
networks in the future, as can be evidenced by the numerous NTU alumni groups that have been formed over the years.

My colleagues have prepared a comprehensive programme for you today and will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about academic, residential or other matters concerning your sons and daughters. I hope your time spent here today is both enjoyable and enlightening as you discover for yourself the intricacies of the life of an undergraduate here at NTU.

Thank you.