

Former dean of NUS K.J. Ratnam dies at 88

The former dean and head of political science at the National University of Singapore (NUS), Professor Emeritus Datuk K.J. Ratnam, died on March 10. He was 88.

NUS announced his death on its website, describing Prof Ratnam as a distinguished political scientist, educator and scholar.

“A prominent political scientist specialising in Malaysian politics and race relations, Prof Ratnam was the youngest professor in his generation,” NUS said.

Prof Ratnam was a key member of the Department of Political Science at the University of Malaya in

Singapore when it was first established in 1961. He became the department head in 1965, the university added.

NUS president Tan Eng Chye expressed his condolences, acknowledging Prof Ratnam’s “impactful work in the fields of political science and academia that have developed generations of leaders”.

From 1965 to 1970, Prof Ratnam served as the head of political science at the University of Singapore, the predecessor institution to NUS.

In April 1966, *The Straits Times* reported that Prof Ratnam had

been appointed dean of the university’s newly established Faculty of Social Sciences. Just 30 years old, the Kuala Lumpur-born academic was the youngest dean at the university.

Professor Tan said: “I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our former colleague... A highly respected political scientist, educator and scholar, Prof Ratnam was instrumental in nurturing, for many decades, generations of leaders in both the public and private spheres in Singapore, Malaysia and beyond.”

The Straits Times