

PROPOSAL FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCE COMPLEX: BUILDING-RELATED PROJECTS

BACKGROUND:

The College of Social Sciences and Philosophy (CSSP) is the steward of Palma Hall, which UP alumni fondly remember as the AS (Arts and Sciences) or LA (Liberal Arts) building, depending on their year of graduation from the University. Despite the split of the old College of Arts and Sciences into three colleges, Palma Hall continues to beat with the pulse of students from different units of UP Diliman. It is the place to see other students and to be seen. In more ways than one, Palma Hall or AS is the heart of the UP Diliman.

In recent years, the UP Diliman administration under the leadership of Chancellor Emerlinda R. Roman provided maintenance funds to arrest the deterioration of the building. Palma Hall has been rewired to enable the College to transform its classrooms into “smart classrooms”. The roofs have also been changed and the building completely repainted. Prior to the repair and repainting of the building, then UP President Francisco Nemenzo funded the renovation of all its comfort rooms.

Aside from Palma Hall, CSSP is also the steward of the Palma Hall Annex (PHAN) and sections of Benton Hall. The UP Diliman administration has provided funds for the renovation of comfort rooms and maintenance work in PHAN. Additional funds are now being sourced for its rewiring.

Despite these significant improvements, however, the University’s resources are not adequate to make the two buildings at par with those of similar institutions in the country and the Asian region. The Palma Hall Restoration and Modernization Project and the PHAN Renovation Project, therefore, are means of generating resources to modernize the classrooms in the two buildings and restore the artworks in Palma Hall.

Improvements in the classroom facilities, however, ought to be complemented with the provision of a working environment for the faculty that is conducive to creative thinking and productivity. At present, most of the members of the CSSP faculty occupy rooms in the Faculty Center (FC) that it shares with the College of Arts and Letters. Over the years, the FC has become extremely congested, with four to five faculty members in the Department of Philosophy sharing the room meant for one individual. To address this problem, Chancellor Roman and President Nemenzo allocated funds to begin the construction of a Faculty Center behind the Palma Hall Annex.