

## **PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING PROFESSORIAL CHAIRS OR RESEARCH AWARDS AT THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PHILOSOPHY**

### ***Background***

The award of a professorial chair has been the university's established tradition of recognizing excellence among its faculty. The grant of a professorial chair not only recognizes the individual's expertise and excellence but also allows that person the freedom to engage in a chosen research or design a project free from the restrictions normally imposed by other funding agencies. By providing flexibility and freedom, creativity and academic productivity are promoted and allowed to flourish. Thus, chairs may be used not only to reward good performance but also as incentives to encourage and promote basic research, academic productivity and publication among the faculty.

The current supply of professorial chairs is extremely limited. In the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy (CSSP) today, there are about 20 chairs distributed unevenly across the nine departments (See Table 1). Two departments, Anthropology and Geography, appear to have been left out completely in the departmental allocation of chairs. In addition to the specified chairs, there are five chairs that are not department restricted and for which qualified faculty from all the nine departments may compete. There are also 11 G.E. chairs which are shared by the colleges that handle the G.E. courses. Overall, approximately 16 percent of the CSSP faculty members with the rank of assistant professor and up have the possibility of receiving recognition and support via a professorial chair award.

Table 1. Distribution of professorial chairs by department

<b>Department</b>	<b>No. of Faculty, Assistant Prof +</b>	<b>No. of allocated chairs</b>	<b>% (Chairs / Faculty)</b>
Anthropology	12	0	0
Geography	6	0	0
History	26	5	19.2
Linguistics	7	3	42.8
Philosophy	27	1	3.7
Political Science	32	5	15.6
Population Institute	8	2	25
Psychology	22	2	9.1
Sociology	14	2	14.3

Over the last two decades, professorial chairs have been a major source of research funding for faculty with the rank of Assistant Professor or higher. The already small fixed grants of P30,000 per annum have considerably lost value over the years, however. Withholding tax rates have increased from 10 percent to 30 percent, slicing off a substantial portion of the total amount. The residual grant left over after taxes (approximately P21,000 for a year) cannot even keep up with inflation and the exponential increases in research costs. This sorry state has served to discourage qualified faculty from applying for the professorial chairs available. A few have expressed the opinion that the pittance received is hardly worth the tedious application process.

**Goal:**

Given the truly sorry state of professorial chairs and research awards in the college to date, the SSPRF aims to achieve an increase from 16% to 50% in 6 years of qualified faculty receiving a professorial chair grant that would pay at least P60,000 a year. The goal eventually is to have all qualified faculty holding chairs to support continuous research and publications. Chair holders may renew their grants annually, subject to submitting the expected output per period and thus continue pursuing a particular line of research and scholarship.

In addition, the SSPRF hopes to make available each year on a competitive basis at least one super chair or research award in the Social Sciences that would pay P120,000 a year.

Table 2. Estimated number of additional chairs that need to be created per department over a ten year period

<b>Department</b>	<b>After 3 years</b>	<b>After 6 years</b>	<b>After 8 years</b>	<b>After 10 years</b>
Anthropology	3	3	3	3
Geography	2	1	2	1
History	2	6	7	6
Linguistics		2	1	1
Philosophy	6	7	6	7
Political Science	3	8	8	8
Population Institute		2	2	2
Psychology	4	5	6	5
Sociology	2	3	4	3

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