

The University of Chicago

Office of the Dean of Faculties

January 15, 1924

To the President of the University.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your request I am submitting a statement as to ~~the~~ <sup>certain</sup> strong departments of the University and the possibility of still further strengthening their work. Since the Law School and the School of Commerce and Administration have previously received special consideration, these may be omitted in the present instance. I make the following statements with reference to the Departments of Arts, Literature and Science and the School of Education.

I. The Social Sciences.

The group of Social Sciences, which for certain purposes includes also Philosophy, is a strong group. It comprises for the present purpose besides Philosophy, Political Economy, Political Science, History and Sociology, which have formed a Social Science Conference.

During the past year three of these Departments, Political Economy, Political Science and Sociology, with the aid of the closely allied Graduate School of Social Service Administration, have carried on important investigations with the aid of funds from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Foundation. They have been encouraged to think that this Foundation will consider further aid, probably for a longer term than one year. This aid is given for field investigation, for clerical assistance,

*Strengthening  
of Departments*  
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and needed supplies. It is not granted for salaries of members of the teaching staff, but if investigation and publication is to be carried on it is essential that much time and energy be given by experts of maturity and ability if the investigation is to be wisely planned and directed and if the results are to be properly analyzed, interpreted and published. This makes a heavy strain upon our existing staff which is also charged with the regular work of instruction. It is gratifying that there should be this selection of our Social Science Department to make studies which it is hoped will not only add to our information but also improve our methods of research in the social science field; but this very task makes an additional demand for strengthening the staff. Some of the Departments, History and Political Economy, are better staffed than Philosophy and Political Science, in point of numbers. In some cases the additional need is for a single strong man; in others, for promising young men to release more mature men from elementary courses for graduate work.

## II. Romance and English.

The two strongest departments in the general field of language and literature are Romance and English. These are well organized, active in production and have a large number of students both graduate and undergraduate.

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The English Department would like to bring to the University distinguished scholars for annual appointments in order to stimulate further the work of the staff and to give students opportunity to become acquainted with outstanding men. It desires also a research lectureship to be filled for successive terms (say one year or more) by promising young scholars who might in this way be encouraged to present new work. Such a lectureship would be awarded upon a competitive basis and with the understanding that it would not be expected to lead to a permanent appointment. Nevertheless it would give opportunity to discover promising young scholars.

### III. Mathematics and Physical Sciences.

The Departments of Mathematics and Physics are at the present time probably the strongest in the country. Certainly they are very strong. They have attracted a large registration of advanced students. They are active in publication. The Department of Mathematics, however, needs an additional instructor to enable its more mature men to give further time to the direction of advanced work. The Department of Mathematics further desires strongly to establish a Mathematical Journal inasmuch as the existing Journals are not able to publish all the researches which are being produced. The Department believes that it would be an important source of strength to the morale and distinction of the Department to have such a Journal.

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#### IV. Geography.

This department is probably the strongest in the United States, having a staff of ambitious young men well organized. Two of the staff in succession, last year, were urged to accept the headship of the Department of Geography in the University of Michigan. It is necessary to retain these strong men and if we could add an additional member to the staff, it would make the department probably the strongest in the world.

#### V. Biological Sciences.

Zoology has several strong men who are productive. It is necessary to increase certain salaries to retain some of the young and promising men. The Department of Botany has produced a remarkable number of Doctors of Philosophy who are now holding important positions. Sixty were in attendance at the last meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Cincinnati. The field of Plant Pathology is one that is now assuming great importance for agriculture and for the marketing of agricultural products. An addition to the staff in this field is greatly needed and would place this already strong department upon a stronger basis. The department should also appoint a young man to develop for the field of structural botany, which is at present filled by men who will necessarily retire in a few years.

The Department of Anatomy, which at present includes work in preventive medicine, is strong. It will assume added importance in the development of the medical school.

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It is impossible to state precisely the exact amount needed in each case to strengthen these departments, since in some cases it may involve calling a man who has already achieved eminence, in other cases the securing of a promising young man. But as an estimate the amount needed for these twelve departments could not be regarded as less than \$7000 each, making a total of \$84,000.

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