



# OBSERVATORIO INTERAMERICANO DE CERRO TOLOLO

Operado por  
ASOCIACION DE UNIVERSIDADES PARA INVESTIGACIONES EN ASTRONOMIA, INC.  
Bajo Contrato con la  
National Science Foundation

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
YALE UNIVERSITY

February 2, 1978

CASILLA 63-D  
LA SERENA, CHILE  
Tel. 1353

Professor Hugo Moreno  
Observatorio Astronómico  
Universidad de Chile  
Casilla 36-D  
Santiago

Dear Hugo,

Pat Osmer and Barry Lasker have forwarded me Campusano's proposal for AURA financial assistance. The Fellowship program that can be considered in such cases was initiated by AURA to enable young University of Chile astronomers who are in a difficult financial situation to carry out specific and meritorious research programs. I am sure that you will agree that it is in the best interest of the University of Chile that all AURA aid to University of Chile scientists be awarded on the basis of excellence. From our side, CTIO's reputation and rather limited funding makes it important that we implement such financial aid conservatively.

As a guideline, I suggest that the proposal be very specific. The problem to be solved should be spelled out, and its relevance to the advancement of astronomy should be clearly stated. Then details of how the project is to be carried out should be presented and the objects to be observed, if any, should be listed. An explanation of why these objects were chosen should be given. If telescope time is required, a request for such time must accompany the presentation so that it can be properly evaluated. Estimates of the starting and finishing dates of the project must be included and justified. The financial situation of the individual should be explained.

Such a presentation would enable us to submit the proposal to expert referees for comment and if telescope time is requested, to the Telescope Assignment Committee. On the basis of the reactions received, we can then be in a position to consider awarding the fellowship.

February 2, 1978

Campusano's request as submitted is in my opinion rather weak, and if we submit it to referees for evaluation, their criticism may reflect adversely on Campusano.

I hope this will help you to make sure that only strong and well justified projects are submitted. Campusano is welcome to prepare such a request and I am very sorry I can't recommend a fellowship award on the basis of what we have received from him.

Yours very cordially,



Victor M. Blanco

VMB:jm

cc: C. Anguita  
P. Osmer  
B. Lasker



En Sección - Board Regular (9 Mar. 77)  
Punto 4. - ("Approval of minutes of special meetings" - b) December 3, 1976")

Executive Committee  
Regular Session - 12/3/76  
ATTACHMENT 8

in Sección R-12.  
agencia 38 "Scientific Staff"  
el "Board of Directors"  
March 9, 1977

AURA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Item 9 - Regular Session

December 3, 1976

Subject: Proposal for Establishment of AURA  
Professional Fellowships - CTIO

AURA Professional Fellowships for  
University of Chile Astronomers

In order to promote growth of astronomy in Chile and good relations between AURA and University of Chile scientists, CTIO implemented in 1969 a program of graduate fellowships for Chilean students. In addition, provisions were made to support Chilean astronomers traveling abroad to attend professional meetings or to visit astronomical research centers in the U.S. Similar programs were adopted by ESO and CARSO. These programs have facilitated advanced studies by six young Chileans, four of whom have completed Ph.D. degrees and two who are about to complete them.

Unfortunately, none of those who have completed doctoral studies has returned to Chile. The main reason for this loss of talent has been the depressed salaries at the universities. The economic situation has also adversely affected the scientific productivity of the older Chilean professional astronomers.

In order to help remedy this situation, it is proposed that the AURA Fellowship Program implemented in 1969 be discontinued while the present economic conditions prevail in Chile. In its place a fellowship program should be implemented aimed at making it possible for the University of Chile to attract its young scientists and for the older scientists to carry out more significant research efforts than are now possible.

The fellowships will be granted to scientists who propose to undertake meritorious research projects. The term of a fellowship will be six months to two years, depending on the nature of the research to be carried out. In exceptional circumstances a fellowship may be extended. A monthly stipend of U.S. \$250 converted to Chilean currency will be paid. Funds not to exceed \$750 may also be awarded to cover publication costs in refereed journals and, in addition, up to \$1,250 may be granted to cover costs of a trip to the United States to present research results. The holders of

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these fellowships, which will number up to three at a given time, will be expected to carry out part of their studies at CTIO, and to interact with CTIO's resident staff.

VICTOR M. BLANCO

Note: in the AURA Board of Directors Regular Session, March 9, 1977 this motion was moved by Dr. Pierpont, seconded by Mr. Lorenz, and carried.