

**From:** Carsten Andreas HOLZ <[socholz@ust.hk](mailto:socholz@ust.hk)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 1, 2025 9:24 AM  
**To:** [omitted]  
**Subject:** Re: Targeted Hiring Scheme | SOSC | Prof [omitted]

Dear [secretary, Social Science Division] -- Please pass on to the relevant person.

I am perplexed by this case of “Targeted Hiring Scheme.”

(1) Linguistics is not a social science. (a) What is the rationale for this proposed hire? We are not hiring biochemists. (b) As far as I know linguistics is a discipline in humanities. Why is this candidate not being considered in HUMA? (c) And if there were a good rationale for the candidate not being considered in HUMA, then why not in the HKUST computer department, which presumably deals with large language models, i.e., has at least some connection to linguistics.

(2) Your email says that the candidate “is being nominated for...” >Who< nominated?

(3) What are the financial implications of this “Target Hiring?” I suspect that such hires earn a significantly higher salary than existing (non-Target-Hiring) SOSC faculty members. Does this hire reduce the salary funds for everyone else, or does this hire mean that the SOSC salary funds are being permanently augmented correspondingly? (And I acknowledge that given the state of zero transparency in division/school finances, I could never check up on the answer.)

Best,  
Carsten