

SPIA Policy on Editorships

To justify an annual course release for a journal editorship, both of the following conditions must apply: (a) the course release is provided only to editors-in-chief (or in the case of some journals – managing editors who are performing the top editorial role); AND (b) the course release is made available only to editors-in-chief (or managing editors) whose editorial job has a justifiably high workload, e.g., a large number of submissions to handle each year. Other relevant considerations for a course release may include the reputation and visibility of the journal, and the provision of a subvention by the journal/journal publisher, i.e., to cost-share a replacement instructor for a released course.

The department head should consult with the relevant faculty member annually so as to determine if the course release should continue to be granted. In making this determination, department heads should consider the faculty member's overall research, teaching, and service responsibilities.

In very exceptional circumstances, a course release could be granted to a co-editor, associate editor, or field editor because of (b).

The dean's office will look to the department head to replace or otherwise manage the issue of the released course.

For editors who are other than the editor-in-chief, there may be ways to provide alternative support, e.g., a GRA who assists the editor. The dean may be able to provide resources in these latter cases.