The Committee is pleased to nominate Roger Atkinson, Director of the Air Pollution Research Center and Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry in the Department of Environmental Sciences as the Faculty Research Lecturer for the Academic Year 2005-2006. Professor Atkinson’s career in Atmospheric Chemistry has been and is of the highest distinction. As detailed briefly below, over the last 30+ years his incredibly broad and numerous contributions to this field and their applications to air pollution have been second-to-none.

Professor Atkinson received his BA and MA in Natural Sciences and his PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of Cambridge, UK, the latter occurring in 1969. Following two periods of postdoctoral research in Canada, he joined the Statewide Air Pollution Research Center (SAPRC) at UCR. He rose through the ranks, becoming Interim Director in 1993 and, in 1996, when the Center became a local ORU, he was appointed its Director, a position he has held since that time. He joined the Department of Environmental Sciences in 1990, became a cooperating faculty member in the Chemistry Department in 1996 and was appointed Distinguished Professor in 2000.

Professor Atkinson is an internationally recognized leader in the study of gas-phase reactions of organic compounds in the atmosphere, focusing specifically on laboratory studies of the kinetics, products, and mechanisms of these reactions. In addition to natural compounds found world-wide, Professor Atkinson has addressed anthropogenic species such as pesticides, volatiles emitted in vehicle exhaust, and halogenated compounds intended as substitutes for molecules such as chlorofluorocarbons that have been banned as contributing to the “greenhouse” affect and global warming. A large fraction of his work has involved atmospheric reactions of low molecular weight hydrocarbons or oxygenated compounds derived from anthropogenic sources. In addition, of recent years, Professor Atkinson’s efforts have addressed reactions of higher molecular weight hydrocarbons and oxygenated compounds that are formed as first generation products of hydrocarbon oxidation. These reactions can lead to formation of aerosol particles, thereby contributing significantly to atmospheric abnormalities such as reduced visibility, global climate modification, particle toxicity, etc. Therefore, Professor Atkinson’s research, which over the years has provided a large fraction of the basis for understanding of organic gas-phase atmospheric chemistry, is now directly impacting research on the formation of organic atmospheric particulate matter which has become a critical arena for next-generation air pollution abatement efforts.

Professor Atkinson has published more than 400 scientific articles, has presented more than 240 scientific seminars in 14 countries on 4 continents, has participated in more than 100 State, National and International committees, panels, etc., and has held research grants alone or with colleagues totaling $13M.

For his extraordinary achievements, Professor Atkinson has received several profound honors, with the rate of such recognitions increasing rapidly at this time. Examples are: He was named the University of California, Riverside, Distinguished Non-Senate Researcher in 1989; received the Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Research Award of the International Society for Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds in 1997; was awarded the AGU Editors’ Citation for Excellence in Refereeing for Geophysical Research Letters in 1997; was chosen for the first Haagen Smit Award of the Journal Atmospheric Environment for the most important paper published since the inception of the journal in 2001; won the American Chemical Society Award for Creative Advances in Environmental Science and Technology in 2002; and received the Haagen-Smit Clean Air Award of the California Air Resources Board in 2004. He was elected to Fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1997 and in the American Geophysical Union in 2005.

In addition, as testimony to the broad significance of his research, the Institute for Scientific Information (the organization that publishes The Scientist and Science Citation Index, has identified Professor Atkinson as a Most Highly Cited Researcher in FOUR SEPARATE CATEGORIES: (i) Chemistry; (ii) Ecology/Environment; (iii) Engineering; (iv) Geosciences

In recognition of these many contributions and honors received, the Committee is pleased to nominate Professor Roger Atkinson for the Riverside Division Faculty Research Lecturer for 2005/2006.