REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON DISTINGUISHED CAMPUSSERVICE AWARD
MAY 30 2006

The Committee is pleased to nominate Theda Shapiro, Associate Professor of French and Italian, of the Department of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages as a recipient of the First Annual Distinguished Campus Service Award for the academic year 2005-2006.

Professor Shapiro has a long history of extraordinary service and dedication to her department, her college, and especially to international education. She has twice served as Acting Chair of her department and has served in several capacities that are equivalent to Chair of programs within or between departments. In particular, she has served as Director of the Italian Program of her department since 1999 and as Director of the French Program for most of the same period. She serves as essentially the system memory of her department, being very well-versed in Academic Senate procedures. She has been a driving force in the UC Consortium for Language Learning and Teaching (UCCLLT) since its inception several years ago and has served for the past 6 years on the steering committee of the system-wide version of the consortium. She was also the first Director of the Liberal Studies and Interdisciplinary Programs (2000-03), a subgroup of her department that serves hundreds of majors (currently ~500). This is a very complex program that relies on the interaction and cooperation of faculty within and between colleges. This position, too, was much like that of a department chair, requiring all of the time, effort, and diplomatic skills of a Chair – perhaps more of the latter than a typical chair because she lacked the official imprimatur of and authority provided to a true Chair. She is currently Chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee (1998-present). She has also been an active member of the Film and Visual Cultures Program form 2000-2004 and currently holds an appointment as Cooperating Faculty member in Dance.

Professor Shapiro is an outstanding academic administrator and is called upon again and again to participate in complicated and time-consuming tasks where she has distinguished herself repeatedly. She has served on and chaired innumerable search committees for lecturers, e.g. she chaired 4 search committees in 2003 and 2004 – Italian and German in 2003; Classics and German in 2004 – and she was a member of two others in French in 2002 and 2003. She has chaired the search for Senate faculty positions in her home department and in Comparative Literature (European and Comparative Studies). She is Chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee (1998-present). She has served on many 10s of MA and PhD committees, from a very wide variety of departments.

Last, but by no means least, Professor Shapiro has dedicated enormous efforts to the Education Abroad Program, both in the field as Director of the EAP program in Paris in the 1980s (3 years) and as Associate Director for Academic Affairs of the University-Wide Education Abroad Program, located at UCSB in the 1990s (4 years). The intricacies of the latter position were much like that of a Dean; an 11-month appointment in which she invested 65-75 hours per week. Among her duties were approval of ~3,000 courses per year for UC credit, quality control of individual student curricula, involvement in planning efforts regarding existing and new programs around the world, administration of searches for directors, and supervision of an office staff of 6 or more employees.

These and many other service activities accepted continuously for many years demonstrate Dr. Shapiro’s extraordinary dedication to UCR and to the University.

Respectfully submitted: N. Beckage, J. Briggs, P. Talbot, J. Trumble, H. W. Green, Chair