During 2006-2007, the Committee on Scholarships and Honors met and accomplished the following.

1. The Committee first met on November 28, 2006. The discussion was focused on Chancellor’s and Regents’ Scholarships. The past criteria for these scholarships were that the student must have: (1) 3.5 GPA or better, (2) 1300 or better SAT I or 710 or better SAT I in Math or Critical Reading, and (3) 1250 SAT and a 4.0 GPA or better (the GPA was given more weight than the SAT scores); the students were required to maintain a 3.0 GPA to keep their scholarships. The committee decided to retain these criteria for selecting scholarship candidates.

The committee suggested introducing a high-standard fellowship called the Hinderaker Fellowship which would only be offered to the 20 highest ranked students. This fellowship would include room and board, and a standard allowance, with full fees paid.

Emily Engelschall, Director of Undergraduate Recruitment, attended the meeting as a guest and discussed the recruitment process on campus and what her office did for scholarship students. The office of Emily Engelschall offers a program, The Highlander Scholars, in which juniors in high school can apply at UCR the summer after their junior year. The criteria are: 3.5 GPA or better, and 1600 SAT score or better. These students are conditionally guaranteed admission at UCR. The committee was comfortable with recruiting these high school students in their junior year.

2. In April 2007, the Committee unanimously approved the Conflict of Interest Statement pertaining to the Committee on Scholarships and Honors. (The decision to approve the Conflict of Interest Statement was reached through correspondence; it was again noted and confirmed in the Committee’s meeting on April 26, 2007.)

3. The Committee met on April 26, 2007, to select the recipients of 2006-2007 Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Research. The Committee was to select (from among those nominated): (i) two faculty members, one in humanities, arts, and social sciences, and one in sciences and engineering; and (ii) two students, one in humanities, arts, and social sciences, and one in sciences and engineering. The Committee was concerned about the small number of nominations and the rather inadequate amount of information available about some of the nominees.

After detailed discussion, the Committee selected the following recipients (the category for which each of them was chosen is noted in parentheses):

1. Professor Carolyn Murray (faculty member in humanities, arts, and social sciences);
2. Mr. M. D. Kinon (student in humanities, arts, and social sciences)
3. Mr. G. Quiroz (student in sciences and engineering).
The Committee decided not to choose a faculty member for science and engineering since, in this category, there was only one nomination and the information available about the nominee was considered to be an inadequate basis for an award.

The Committee decided to write, at a later date, a letter to register its concerns about the very small number of nominations and the inadequate information available about many nominees and to make some suggestions for improvements in the process.