The Committee is pleased to nominate Professor Richard Redak of the Department of Entomology as a recipient of the DISTINGUISHED CAMPUS SERVICE AWARD for the academic year 2006-2007.

Professor Redak has a history of extensive service and dedication to his department, his college, the campus, and the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) that extends from very early in his appointment at UCR. For the Department of Entomology, he served continuously for 6 years beginning in 1997 as Graduate Advisor and for similar lengths of time on several important committees. During the last several years, his service has been particularly critical to the department, specifically as Chair of the Graduate Core Curriculum Committee and Instructional and Student Affairs Committee, culminating in his appointment as Vice-Chair of the Department in 2004, a position he continues to hold. His service outside the department has been equally as distinguished and almost as long-lived, particularly in the realm of undergraduate education in the biological sciences, serving as a member of the Committee in Charge for the Biological Sciences Major for 5 years and as Undergraduate Advisor for the Interdepartmental Undergraduate Program in Biological Sciences continuously since 1999. In particular, he served on and became Chair of the CNAS Executive Committee during the pivotal last few years. He was instrumental in initiating the wide-ranging external review of undergraduate education in the biological sciences at UCR that has recently been completed and for which final resolution and implementation is approaching. This has been a very contentious issue and Professor Redak’s leadership has been crucial in bringing us this far.

For the broader campus, Professor Redak has served on many committees, especially with respect to conservation biology and the Natural Reserve System (NRS). He has chaired several of these committees and served as Acting Director of the NRS during two critical periods during which he galvanized the faculty into rescuing the system from proposed severe budget cuts that would have resulted in closure of one or more Reserves. In addition to his important role on the CNAS Executive Committee, he has served the Senate as a member of the Physical Resources Planning Committee and as an active and persuasive member of the Advisory Committee.

Beyond the campus, Professor Redak has been active on many issues concerning the AES, in particular concerning the severe potential threat that the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter posed for the California wine industry, for which he served as Co-Chair of the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter and the Diseases they Transmit Work Group of the Department of Agricultural and Natural Resources (DANR). More recently, and more generally, he has also Co-Chaired a similar committee on invasive species and exotic pests research.

These and many other service activities accepted continuously since his joining UCR demonstrate Professor Redak’s dedication to UCR and to the University. As his nominators repeatedly pointed out, Professor Redak’s service has been marked not just by extended efforts but by significant achievements that have bettered the campus.