COMMITTEE ON FACULTY RESEARCH LECTURER
REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
MAY 19, 2009

NOMINATION OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER REED
FOR 2009-10 FACULTY RESEARCH LECTURER

From its inception well over half a century ago, the Faculty Research Lecturer Award has been the highest honor that the Academic Senate bestows. The Committee on the Faculty Research Lecturer is honored to place in nomination Christopher Reed, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry. We believe that the international acclaim for Professor Reed’s fundamental research contributions to organic, inorganic, and physical chemistry will add great luster to the award.

The nomination letter from Professor Reed’s department stresses the breadth, novelty, and quality of his research, noting that he “publishes only in the best journals, including all the absolutely top tier journals.” The significance and impact of his scientific research is reflected in his H index, ranking him 265th amongst all living chemists in the world, and in the extent to which his research has consistently attracted funding at the rate of a half-million dollars per year.

Professor Reed’s professional stature has also been recognized by the receipt of several prestigious awards. Perhaps the most prestigious is the Tolman Award—seven of its 45 recipients have gone on to win Nobel Prizes in chemistry—but also impressive is the Creativity Extension (CREX) award on his NSF grant. He has, in addition, been recognized as a Guggenheim Fellow and as an Alexander von Humboldt Senior Fellow.

Letters from scholars at some of the finest universities in the world also attest to Professor Reed’s prominence. He is lauded as “one of a handful of inorganic chemists in this country who have achieved truly major national and international reputations” and as one who “has made truly profound contributions to a degree exceeded by very few scientists.” His research is repeatedly described as extraordinarily creative, imaginative, and innovative. A recent Nobel Prize Laureate, “amazed by [Professor Reed’s] creativity,” describes him as a “quintessential scientist and no nonsense Kiwi” who “has made fundamental contributions with lasting effects.” This distinguished letter writer adds (colorfully) that Professor Reed “moves effortlessly throughout the periodic table with impressive grace and intellect.”

Also pertinent to the spirit of the award is the recurring recognition in the outside letters of Professor Reed’s “creation of the Centre for s- and p-block chemistry, which has given the Riverside chemistry department a very high international profile.”

For these reasons and many more, we, the undersigned members of the Senate Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer, unanimously and enthusiastically nominate, as Faculty Research Lecturer for 2009-10, Distinguished Professor Christopher Reed.

R. Robert Russell, Chair (Department of Economics)
Roger Atkinson (Department of Environmental Sciences)
Natasha Raikhel (Department of Botany and Plant Sciences)
David Reznick (Department of Biology)
Jonathon H. Turner (Department of Sociology)

* Dallas Rabenstein (Department of Chemistry), a member of the 2008-09 FRL Committee, was appointed as EVC and Provost before the committee’s deliberations and hence did not participate in them.