The recipient of the 2011 ACADEMIC SENATE DISTINGUISHED CAMPUS SERVICE AWARD is Professor Giles Waines. Professor Waines has provided, for decades, distinguished service and leadership, often concurrently, as Director of the UCR Botanic Gardens, as Director of the UCR Herbarium, and as a member of the Academic Senate Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP). He has performed this service while carrying out additional departmental assignments and, at the same time, maintaining a strong research program and a teaching load frequently above the departmental average.

The most visible, outstanding service role of Professor Waines is as Director of the UCR Botanic Gardens for 30 years with its many facets. Through Professor Waines’ leadership the Botanic Gardens is not only one of the crown jewels of the campus, but it is also an important and indispensable extension of UCR in the Inland Empire that enhances the visibility and positive image of UCR throughout southern California. Since 1981 Professor Waines has advanced the physical beauty of the gardens, sustained their financial well being, established an administrative structure, and facilitated the expansion of the educational, cultural and outreach programs offered by the gardens. The Botanic Gardens, which contain 3,500 plant species from around the world, is a living laboratory and center for education, outreach and public service activities that serve the varied needs of young children, UCR undergraduate and graduate students, homeowners, backyard gardeners and Senior citizens. Professor Waines tirelessly applied his vision and energy to do whatever needed to be done to develop the Gardens, from cultivating and maintaining donor support, writing grants to obtain funding for employee salaries and physical improvements, and even sleeping at the gardens to protect the nearly 10,000 plants available at the annual Spring and Fall plant sales.

For 23 years Professor Waines has also served as the Director of the UCR Herbarium, which currently houses over 142,000 vascular plant specimens from the United States, with approximately 80,000 of those from California, and an additional 32,000 specimens from Mexico. UCR’s herbarium is an important source of information for academic researchers, private consulting firms, government agencies, and other groups and individuals in Southern California. Each year, the UCR Herbarium staff provides more than 5,000 requested identifications, with approximately 25% of these specimens added to the Herbarium’s actively growing collection.

Nominators noted that Dr. Waines rarely says “no” when asked to take on a task for the Senate, the college, or the department, including extra teaching assignments. In his quiet, highly effective manner, Professor Waines simply does everything it takes to get the job done well, and the committee is pleased to award him the 2011 Distinguished Campus Service Award.

Carl Cranor, Chair
Eric Barr
Carol Lovatt
June O’Connor
Gary Scott