During the 2011-2012 academic year, the Committee on Scholarships and Honors met twice and accomplished the following:

1. At the November 10, 2011 meeting, the Committee:
   a. Reviewed and made minor changes to last year’s Conflict of Interest statement, adopting the revised statement.
   b. Received an update on scholarships from ex officio member Sheryl Hayes.
   c. Developed a timeline for dissemination of the Call for the Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement and selection of faculty and student recipients; the new timeline was approved later in the month by email.
   d. Revised the language of the Call for the Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement to clarify selection criteria; the revised Call was approved later in the month by email.
   e. Created Guidelines to accompany the Call which include more detailed information and examples of what the committee is looking for in nomination packages; the Guidelines were approved later in the month by email.
   f. Revised the language of the email that accompanies the Call to include the web link to the Academic Senate Awards page that is provided on the Call.
   g. Asked Sarah Miller (staff support for the Committee) to locate an image of the Bell Tower for use as a watermark for the Call and Guidelines; later in the month, the Committee approved by email the image she found, which was incorporated in the revised Call and the new Guidelines.
   h. Recommended to Sarah Miller that the portion of the Academic Senate web site where the award recipients are announced be revised to include last year’s student award recipients and their bios from the Committee’s annual report to the Senate.
   i. Asked Sarah Miller to include additional information on the iLearn web site for the Committee to facilitate the selection of winners (the Call, Guidelines, email accompanying them, list of winners for previous years, and the annual report for the previous year, which includes descriptive paragraphs on each winner and might be of use in the deliberation process).

2. At the April 12, 2012 meeting, the Committee:
   a. Proposed that the announcement of winners of the Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement be made in more venues than last year: not just at the final Senate meeting, graduation, and Honors Convocation, or even at the faculty Awards reception the Chancellor hosts.
each spring, where for the first time they were announced last year, but also in the Inside UCR faculty newsletter and the Highlander, and on the Senate and UCR websites. Sarah Miller looked into the feasibility of such announcements and found that all but a notice in the Highlander seem possible. In addition, a list of winners should appear on the committee’s iLearn website, along with the paragraphs about each for the last two or three years, to assist with the selection of winners.

b. Made additional suggestions for revising the iLearn website to facilitate the selection of winners (concerning the naming and ordering of files of nomination materials uploaded to the site).

c. Agreed that the watermark image of the Bell Tower should be lightened so the Call and Guidelines are easier to read; Chair Tyler subsequently edited the image with Sarah Miller’s help and the revised image was approved by email, along with the minutes, revised Guidelines, and revised email that accompanies them.

d. Reviewed the text of the Call and agreed it was fine.

e. Revised the text of the Guidelines to highlight the need to describe publication and presentation venues for non-specialists, as the Committee found it difficult to compare publication and presentation venues in the different disciplines when reviewing the nomination packages.

f. Revised the text of the email accompanying the Call and Guidelines with the hope that might help make nomination packages more similar in their level of detail.


g. Selected the following faculty and students as the recipients of the 2011-2012 Chancellors’ Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement:

Faculty: *David Kisailus, Assistant Professor of Chemical/Environmental Engineering*  
*Dimitrios Morikis, Professor of Bioengineering*

Students: *Ms. Barbara Davis, Cell Biology*  
*Ms. Michelle Lin, Creative Writing*

David Kisailus: In his five short years at U.C. Riverside, Professor Kisailus has mentored an astonishing fifty-six students in a broad range of research areas, almost two thirds of them from groups underrepresented in the sciences or economically disadvantaged. Eight of his mentees have been coauthors on ten different publications; twenty-six have presented at regional or national conferences; eleven have won grants from UCR for their research proposals; and twenty-one have gone on to graduate or professional study. His student nominees praise him for ensuring that they participate as full members of his research team, as one says, with “a level of independence rarely seen in other laboratories,” though he also takes time to discuss their work with them separately from his graduate students and collaborators from corporations or other universities. They also note that he helps them develop their public speaking skills, “as important as the technical content learned,” and are especially excited about their involvement in his outreach work at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum and in local middle-
schools, where they are able to mentor students themselves. One student nominator says that work has caught the attention of the San Diego Zoo, which is considering implementing a similar program with school children.

**Dimitrios Morikis:** During his years at UCR, Professor Morikis has always made the development of undergraduate researchers a priority, despite the fact that “mentoring is a lot of work,” as one former undergraduate said in her nominating letter, because he takes the time to meet with students individually and not just with their research groups. He has mentored two dozen undergraduate researchers and three senior design project students from a range of majors, including one from CHASS and some from other universities, about two thirds of them from underrepresented groups or economically disadvantaged backgrounds, many of whom have gone on to graduate study, some with prestigious NSF fellowships. “No one has ever treated the undergraduates like they were doing the ‘dirty’ work so they could earn a place at the table,” one of his student nominators notes. Not only do the undergraduates make important contributions to his lab, they also present their findings publically with remarkable frequency thanks to Professor Morikis’s hands-on mentoring: thirty-seven have published abstracts or papers in peer-reviewed journals, including the *UCR Undergraduate Research Journal* Professor Morikis co-founded in 2007, and twenty-three have presented at regional and national conferences. A third of them have been first authors, and one even had his paper in a prominent journal featured on the cover.

**Barbara Davis:** Though she has two young children, Barbara Davis, a Cell Biology major, has made key contributions to cutting-edge research on nicotine at the Stem Cell Center while maintaining a near perfect GPA. Since winter 2011, she not only mastered the difficulties of culturing stem cells, she also developed a protocol for quantifying nicotine on a lab instrument that had not been used in some years, which she repaired and became the lab expert on, deploying it with a team of two other undergraduates she led, a job not usually entrusted to an undergraduate. Her findings have been reported in three papers, two for which she is second author, having provided two figures for each, and a third that is still being drafted and for which she is first author. She also has participated in UCR’s Undergraduate Research Symposium. “She is mature, she is smart, she is a leader, she is a real scientist,” one of her nominating faculty writes, describing her as one of the top two students she has had in 35 years.

**Michelle Lin:** Despite the fact that English is not Michelle Lin’s native tongue, she has more than mastered it, as her high GPA, two prizes from the Creative Writing Department, and poetry publications in *Every Day Poets, Rufous City Review*, and numerous other small literary magazines testify. Her nominators describe her as a “lyric poet with a social conscience” who takes emotional risks in her work yet consistently produces lucid, accomplished, and compelling poems. “She is exceptional as a poet and a scholar, as a person and as an intellect. She is the real thing,” writes one of them. She has served as poetry editor and editor in chief of *Mosaic*, UCR’s literary journal, and as a Gluck Fellow has
organized and hosted open mic events in the city, as well as fiction and poetry workshops. She also has taught poetry and art to low income eight and nine year olds in a summer LEAPS program in Alameda, which was so successful that a local news network reported on it, and is currently at work with theater artists on a multimedia event that similarly reflects her commitment to social justice.

Carole-Anne Tyler, Chair
Anupama Dahanukar
Jack Eichler
Katha Guenther
Elaine Haberer
Tamara Ho
Robin Nelson (on leave Spring 2012)
Wendy Saltzman
Sheryl Hayes, Ex Officio
James Sandoval, Ex Officio
L. Lacasella, , ASUCR (Student) Representative
S. Sachdeva, ASUCR (Student) Representative