COMMITTEE ON DISTINGUISHED CAMPUS SERVICE

NOMINATION FOR THE 2014-2015 DISTINGUISHED CAMPUS SERVICE AWARD

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY JOHN FISCHER

The Committee is pleased to nominate Distinguished Professor John Fisher from the Department of Philosophy as a recipient of the Distinguished Campus Service Award for the academic year 2014-2015. Since he arrived at the University in 1988, Professor Fischer has been a stalwart member of the Philosophy department and the campus community. He was the Director of the University Honors Program from (1996-2004). During his eight years as director, which is the longest anyone has served in that role, the UHP added a summer component and significantly re-conceptualized, enlarged, and upgraded every part of the UHP, including adding an emphasis on campus and community service to encourage Honors students to “payback” the campus for their opportunities. Professor Fischer served as Department Chair (2007-2012), was a member of Faculty Welfare Committee (2005-2007), served on Educational Policy Committee (1990-1993), served as Chair of the Humanities and Social Sciences Executive Committee “Chair of the Faculty” (1993-1994), served as a faculty advisor and mentor, and has served on 13 Ad Hoc Committees for Merits and Promotions (1996-present). Professor Fischer’s campus service includes a range of capacities honoring UCR’s highest academic achieving undergrads, such as Secretary/Treasurer of UCR’s Phi Beta Kappa chapter and numerous scholarship committees including Rhodes/Marshall. In 2012, Professor Fischer received a five million dollar grant from the John Templeton Foundation to fund research on immortality and radical life extension. Among the many things he is funding with this money, and other money he has raised through other sources, is a year-long series of public lectures the past two academic years. He has done a huge amount of “public outreach” in connection with this project, including more than 100 “media hits” through interviews and articles on the project in media venues throughout the world. This grant contributes to campus service in that it has brought visibility and money to UCR, and through the number of people flowing through campus in connection with the grant both as speakers, students, and audiences. Professor Fischer exemplifies campus-wide service that extends beyond his academic duties.
The committee is pleased to nominate Professor Michael Allen from the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology as a recipient of the Distinguished Campus Service Award for the academic year 2014-2015. Since moving his research group to UCR in 1998, Professor Allen has served in numerous significant capacities. He serves this campus by leading and directing the Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) since 1998, to successfully advance the fields of Ecology, Conservation Biology, and Biodiversity Studies on campus. He has grown the center to 100 faculty and he and his colleagues have been the recipients of numerous grants and awards. Professor Allen is also a founding member of new Geoecology and Environmental Dynamics Institute. In both of these activities his commitment is directed towards improving the infrastructure and capacity of the university for research and education. Professor Allen has served as Chair of two departments at UCR: Plant Pathology and Microbiology (July 2003-June 2010; July 2011-June 2012) and Biology (July 2014-present). During his time as chair, funding the department increased steadily, and when he stepped down research expenditures were nearly $5.9 million (not including CCB grants). He currently serves as Chair of the Committee on Research, has served on the Planning Committee for the School of Public Policy, the UC Mexus Advisory Committee, the UCR 2020 Academic Excellence Subcommittee and the Chancellor’s Financial Advisory Committee. He has also served on numerous individual reviews, faculty and administrative position searches and student committees. Professor Allen has served in several capacities system wide, mainly with the UC-Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC-DANR) and with the UC Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC-MEXUS). Professor Allen is tireless when it comes to activities beyond the campus, such as breakfasts and dinners with job candidates, hosting dinners at home for work related events, and weekend field trips. Professor Allen’s service activities also have a substantial impact on campus research. One of the main activities of the CCB has traditionally been to bring teams of researchers together to pursue interdisciplinary research and training grants. It is his level of service, that goes beyond the position titles and items that can be included in e-file, that make the difference in terms of program building and long-term impacts at UCR.