To be Adopted:

The Academic Senate Committee on Distinguished Teaching recommends Professor Stephen Cullenberg (Economics) and Professor Robert E. Neuman (Chemistry) as the recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award for 1997-1998. Both recipients inspire their classes, large and small, with their own passion and enthusiasm for scholarship.

Professor Stephen Cullenberg

Professor Stephen Cullenberg came to UCR in 1988 from Smith college, where he had a reputation as an outstanding teacher. He soon demonstrated here that he has a magical ability to teach everything superbly well. Indeed it is common for him to receive nearly unanimous accolades in a course of more than 150 students.

Equally remarkable is the diversity of courses that he teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Several of his courses indeed have cut across disciplinary boundaries. He is interested in economic methodology, the history of thought, Marxian economics, the theory of the firm, microeconomic theory, and has taught courses in all these areas and more.

Professor Cullenberg often goes beyond the call of duty, offering an extra graduate course on Saturday morning, an undergraduate honors course on justice, inequality and the welfare state, and a joint course with a colleague in the English Department on ‘(Re)valuing Marx, Representing Capitalism.’

Students often write of his wit and lucidity. One described him as “a true intellectual” and another said, “a whole new world has been opened up to me.”

Professor Cullenberg clearly has earned the 1997-98 Distinguished Teaching Award.

Professor Robert C. Neuman

Professor Robert C. Neuman arrived at UCR in 1963 as an Assistant Professor. He was determined to meet and maintain the highest standards of the campus in both research and teaching which he has done consistently as he rose through the professorial ranks.

Professor Neuman has participated in teaching at all levels in both classroom and non-classroom settings. He has mentored twelve Ph.D. students, six M.S. students, and 28 undergraduate students in research, and he has also contributed greatly to teaching in the challenging "sophomore organic" sequence in the Department. In these courses, Professor Neuman aims to present up-to-date chemistry rigorously, while enabling students of all majors and backgrounds to understand and appreciate the significance and the context of the concepts. One student wrote: "Your ability to make the subject palatable for everyone and enjoyable for most is unlike any I have ever
seen.....Your desire to express the subject matter in a form that will only be understood by the students based on past experience should be the example for all my other Professors now and in the future."

Excelling at all levels of teaching, Professor Neuman has taught the General Chemistry sequence for Freshmen (Chemistry 1ABC), and he developed and taught a new course for non-science majors: Concepts of Chemistry (Chemistry 3). Professor Neuman has also excelled in teaching at these levels. A Chemistry 1C student commented "He shows great concern toward his students' understanding the material. The best thing about his lectures is that he is precise and to the point; he teaches the importance of chemistry, not all the other nonessentials." A Chemistry 3 student states "His lectures take a hard subject and make it seem simple and learnable. Dr. Neuman possesses one of the finest qualities in teachers - that of caring about their work. He truly cares about teaching chemistry."

In addition to serving regularly in the Department's undergraduate and graduate advising program, he has also been active for many years in pre-medical advising and in teaching-outreach as an officer in the American Chemical Society's Local Section. Recently, Professor Neuman has been writing a new organic chemistry textbook that will reflect his style and experience in teaching.

Professor Neuman's long and consistent career in teaching in all of its manifestations makes him richly deserving of the 1997-1998 Distinguished Teaching Award.

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