Christopher Chase-Dunn is Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Director of the University Honors Program, the Institute for Research on World-Systems and Co-director of the Program on Global Studies at the University of California-Riverside. He majored in Journalism at Shasta College in Redding, California, got a B.A. in Psychology from UC-Berkeley in 1966 and received his PhD in Sociology from Stanford University in 1975. He taught at Johns Hopkins University until 2000, when he moved to UCR.

Chase-Dunn has studied the causes of national development and global inequalities in the modern world-system. His recent research compares the modern global political economy with earlier regional world-systems in order to examine the causes of human sociocultural evolution. One current project examines polity expansion and settlement growth (and decline) in several regional world-systems as well as the contemporary process of global state formation. He also studies contemporary transnational social movements. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation.

Chase-Dunn is the founder and former editor of the Journal of World-Systems Research and the Series Editor of two book series published by the Johns Hopkins University Press. In 2001 he was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2002 he was elected President of the Research Committee on Economy and Society (RC02) of the International Sociological Association.

At UCR Chase-Dunn helped to found a concentration in the Sociology Graduate Program on Political Economy and Global Social Change. He also helped to organize the UCR undergraduate major in Global Studies, the Biotechnology Impacts Center and the UCR Center of Expertise on Water, Health and Society. And he is currently helping to design and promote a proposal to establish an undergraduate Honors College at UCR. He serves on the boards of the Global Studies, Latin American Studies and the Labor Studies Programs.

Regarding Senate service, Chase-Dunn served on the Committee on Academic Personnel for three years and was Chair of that committee for one year. As chair he attended UCAP meetings in Oakland. He has also served on the Senate Executive Committee (while CAP chair), the International Education Committee and is currently on the General Education Advisory Committee.

Personal statement regarding running for the position of Senate Chair:
The most important function of the Academic Senate is to protect the interests of the faculty and their shared governance in the UC system. The Senate should also help to protect and advance the University of California as a recognized world-class system of research universities. As Chair of the Senate I would endeavor to represent all of the Colleges, Programs and Professional Schools. The experience on CAP and my working relationships with colleagues in both Colleges and the Professional Schools provide a good start. The Chair of the Senate should be a good listener and should be aware of the rather different kinds of scholarship and research that occur across the Departments, Colleges and Schools.

I support the strengthening of existing UCR professional schools and the founding of a Medical School and a School of Public Policy. Students at UCR and in the Inland Valley deserve the opportunity to attend excellent professional schools in their home region. And the University as a whole will benefit by the new professional schools.

Given the expansion and increasing complexity of UCR, we must be mindful of the boom and bust cycles within which new initiatives are being undertaken. The current fiscal crisis in California should not mean that new initiatives need to be brought to a halt. But new initiatives, especially those that are very expensive, should not be funded at the expense of mission-critical existing programs at UCR. The new Medical School was originally planned to be funded entirely by private donations and contributions from the State of California and the Federal Government. But recently the UCR Administration has said that $20 million of UCR campus resources will be used to fund the Medical School start-up. And this at a time in which the budget crisis has led to deep cuts in critical programs such as the libraries, support for undergraduate courses, and TAships for graduate students, while class sizes in many introductory courses are becoming unmanageable.

As Chair of the UCR Division of the Academic Senate I will encourage the faculty and the UCR Administration to rebuild the now-dismantled fire-wall between UCR funding for existing campus programs and support for the new Medical School. This fire-wall was the premise upon which broad faculty support for the Medical School was built. The Senate needs unbiased clear-eyed leadership in order to resolve this issue.

This effort should be undertaken in a way that minimizes disruption of the start-up of the Medical School. Most of the UCR faculty agree that the proposed Medical School will be good for UCR and for the Inland Valley communities. But vital functions of our University should not be sapped away to support this new endeavor. If campus money is available, it should be used to maintain our libraries and to fund needed courses for our undergraduate students and TAships for our graduate students. It is our duty to use our powers of shared governance for this purpose.
There are other issues I would pursue as Senate Chair: ensuring the protection and viability of employee benefits and more dialogue with other important sectors of the university, including non-Senate faculty, staff and students as a way to restore balance to our powers of shared governance.

In these critical times the UCR faculty should be encouraged to conduct outreach beyond UCR to other UC campuses and other parts of the public education system in California. This would mean engaging in a serious effort to convince the public that strong support for public education is important to the future of the state. Yes, this is a tall order and a long-term goal, but if we do not get it under way it will never happen. Chancellor White and a strong contingent of our undergraduate students have shown courageous leadership in support of public education. It is time for the UCR faculty to take a more active role in our community and to seek out allies that will help us strengthen our great university.