COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

DEAN MCHENRY AWARD
FOR DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP IN THE ACADEMIC SENATE

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

After wide consultation, the Committee on Committees has selected Roger Anderson, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, as the nominee for the Dean McHenry Award for Distinguished Leadership in the Academic Senate and for the UC Oliver Johnson Award nomination. The Dean McHenry Award is awarded every two years in conjunction with UCSC’s nomination of a Senate member for the systemwide Oliver Johnson Award.

Professor Roger Anderson arrived at UC Santa Cruz in the summer of 1969 a freshly-minted Harvard Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry. In the almost four decades since that Woodstock summer Professor Anderson has demonstrated (yet again) the vision of the early campus leaders, who identified and promoted individuals holding the ideals of integrity, service to their various communities and scholarship of the highest caliber as dear as they did. It is for these reasons that we are pleased to nominate Professor Roger Anderson for the Dean McHenry Award for Distinguished Leadership in the Academic Senate.

Some of Professor Anderson’s earliest Senate service was on the Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid, a post he held from 1977-1979, assuming the Chairmanship of CAFA for the 1979-1980 academic year. However, beginning in 1987, Professor Anderson began what must be one of the most sustained and high-impact careers of service to the Senate ever recorded, covering 15+ years of continuous high-profile Senate involvement. After one year (1987-1988) on the Narrative Evaluation Committee (an offshoot of the campus Committee on Educational Policy), Professor Anderson agreed to take on the significant time commitment involved with service on the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB), a position he held for an unprecedented length of time (1988 through 1996), a high testament from his colleagues of the exemplary work he brings to each assignment he undertakes. First as a regular member and Chair of the CPB Space Subcommittee (1988-1991), then as Chair of CPB (1994-1995) and finally as Chair of UCPB (1995-96), Professor Anderson’s impact on policy at this campus and around the system has been profound and long-lasting.

In 1997-98, and again in 1998-99, Professor Anderson was Vice Chair of the Santa Cruz division, a position which once again put him on the Divisional Senate Advisory Committee and made him a participant in determining overall Senate policy. He was also the campus’ representative to the Academic Assembly.

During the 1999-2001 academic years, Professor Anderson served as Chair of the Santa Cruz Division. Obviously, this required a major commitment of time, energy, and patience. In the words of a UCSC colleague at the time, “Somehow, to his credit, Professor Anderson managed to maintain his equanimity during the several tumultuous events during his term. He had to deal with special meetings, emergency meetings, and
continuation meetings of the division, … two rather legally contentious mail ballots and one division meeting that had to be cancelled because students chained closed the room in which the meeting was to be held. Incidentally, Professor Anderson handled that student action with cool wisdom, not allowing it to escalate.” These comments go on to point out the large number of additional time-consuming and challenging assignments that accompany the work of the Senate Chair, stating, “I can attest to the fact that unlike several of his predecessors, Professor Anderson took these duties very seriously and performed them extremely well. ... Professor Anderson maintained very close relations with the Alumni Council even during the divisive period when the Senate decided to adopt letter grades as the undergraduate default, which was an unpopular decision among the alumni.”

As part of his duties as Chair of the Senate, he served on the University-wide Academic Council, where he employed his long experience and expertise with undergraduate admissions policy. His engagement on the issues of the day is aptly expressed by the following quotes from an on-the-scene observer at the time. It says in part, ... “Professor Anderson was an impressively active and thoughtful contributor to the work of the Council. ... I admired his ability to examine issues in terms of their impact on the University of California as a whole. His stances were consistently principled.”

During this period, Professor Anderson also served ex officio on the Senate Advisory Committee and the Committee on Planning and Budget. He continued to serve as Chair of the University Center Committee, and his years of work paid off, since the University Center opened in 2003. About this work, one colleague wrote at the time, “After more than 20 years of talks and plans and ideas, it was during Professor Anderson’s leadership of this committee that the decision was finally made to site and build this center. There is little doubt that Professor Anderson played a key leadership role in bringing this about and that this was a major service to the campus.”

From 2001-04, Professor Anderson was a member of the UCSC Faculty Welfare Committee, and on the University-wide Faculty Welfare Committee. He Chaired the local CFW during the Fall quarter, 2004. In the words of another CFW member during those years: “... Professor Anderson was consistently well informed and able to adopt the sort of broad perspective that service on such a committee requires. He was one of two members… on whom I could rely implicitly, and the one to whom I was most likely to turn when I needed advice. ... He proved that he was fully conversant with the issues and able to make important contributions to the committee’s business... his knowledge of the UC administrative structure, and his familiarity with the full range of University policies proved invaluable. ... For the exemplary quality of the service he has rendered, UCSC – and indeed, the UC system at large – owes Professor Anderson a considerable debt of gratitude.”

Professor Anderson’s most recent Senate service (Fall 2007, ongoing) is on the Committee on Emeriti Relations.

Professor Roger Anderson is one of jewels of the Santa Cruz campus, and remarkable contributor to the success of the Academic Senate. It would be conventional to say we are proud, but in fact we are humbled, to present him to you for Dean McHenry Award for
Distinguished Leadership in the Academic Senate and as UCSC’s nominee for the Oliver Johnson Award.

Respectfully Submitted;

COMMITTEES ON COMMITTEES

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