

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
Nomination for the UCSC
Dean McHenry Award
for Distinguished Leadership in the Academic Senate

To: The Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

The Santa Cruz Division's Committee on Committees is delighted to nominate Professor Quentin Williams for the Dean McHenry Award for Distinguished Leadership in the Academic Senate. This is UC Santa Cruz's biennial recognition of outstanding Senate leadership. We have simultaneously nominated Professor Williams for the UC systemwide Oliver Johnson Award for Distinguished Leadership in the Academic Senate, also awarded every two years.

Professor Williams exemplifies the qualities targeted by these awards. He is principled, collegial, committed, and a dedicated independent thinker. These are qualities that have repeatedly attracted notice because they underlie his long list of service roles and define the excellence of his service and other work.

Professor Williams has spent his academic career at UC Santa Cruz, first as a lecturer and research scientist and, since 1991, as professor in the Department of Earth Sciences (now the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences). He has wedged an extraordinary record of service into those two and a half decades: to his department and campus; to his professional field; and - most appositely - to the divisional and systemwide Academic Senate. His Senate service has formed a distinctive pattern: an intensive period immersed in committee work focusing on a particular set of issues (most prominently, graduate and professional education) followed by "meta-service" roles examining and rethinking the processes and best practices governing those issues. This pattern involved Professor Williams in several challenging, sometimes contentious, often overlapping, and always significant examinations of how the University of California conducts its business. His service has been characterized by intelligence, grit, fearlessness and - through it all - wry good humor (he makes Senate service fun). He has made a real difference to how the university operates.

Professor Williams's service begins with his department, which he has chaired since 2011 after serving for many years in a series of intersecting roles, including membership of the curriculum and graduate admissions committees, as search committee member and chair, and as graduate program director. While these may be typical duties for responsible faculty, Professor Williams' record is atypical because of its continuity. The only break in this departmental service record was in 2006 when, as vice-chair of the divisional Senate, Professor Williams was a member of the Senate Executive Committee, member *ex officio* of the Committee on Planning and Budget, and member of the systemwide Academic Planning Council - while simultaneously serving with distinction on three major systemwide committees examining and reevaluating longstanding, often problematic institutional relationships. Both his expertise and well-deserved reputation for leadership make it no surprise that Professor Williams was tapped for these important tasks.

Professor Williams's service to the UC Santa Cruz divisional Senate and the campus included stints on the Faculty Research Lecturer and the Library committees, membership of the WASC Accreditation Committee, and participating as a member of the negotiating team during UAW

talks with the TA union. But his most extensive service consisted of many years on the Graduate Council and the Committee on Research (both of which he chaired), and then as vice-chair and chair of the divisional Senate (followed immediately by becoming department chair). In a ten-year period, he sat on the Senate Advisory and Senate Executive Committees for seven years.

The assiduity of Professor Williams's local service has been matched, if not exceeded, by his systemwide contributions. He has served on Chancellorial review committees, as UCORP member, as chair and vice chair of the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA), as member of the Academic Council and the Academic Assembly, and, critically, as member of a series of high profile, high workload, systemwide committees charged with examining and improving existing practices. Several of these grew directly from his work on UCORP, the Graduate Council, and CCGA. Service on a review committee examining and recommending reform to the California Space Institute appropriations, a challenging and politically delicate task, led to two related, and possibly even more demanding assignments: service on the Working Group on Multi-Campus Research Units to reevaluate longstanding research and financial commitments made by the system; and service on the Task Force on Planning for Doctoral and Professional Education (PDPE), which examined the handling of doctoral and professional degrees at UC and CSU. All three of these committees required both sharp discernment and a willingness to jump into the fray (he has a well-deserved reputation for both). Professor Williams also served on a Task Force on Review Procedures for UC Chancellors, and on the Senate Administration Advisory Workgroup on Required Training, which produced guidelines for establishing which online trainings should be required and which could be optional - a challenging assignment due to cultural differences among the administrative and academic representatives in the group. He also served on the UC Provost's Academic Planning Council, especially focusing on graduate education. Professor Williams accomplished all of this while, simultaneously conducting serious professional service within his discipline, having been elected by 52 member institutions to serve as Chair of the Executive Committee of the NSF Consortium of Materials Properties Research in the Earth Sciences (COMPRES).

Quentin Williams's gift for leadership has been matched only by his generosity and willingness to use that gift selflessly for the benefit of his colleagues and his institution. The UC Santa Cruz Academic Senate, and the entire UC system, have benefitted immensely. In recognition of his years of service - and in hopes that he will continue to serve this community as generously in the future - we are delighted to honor his excellent service by awarding him UCSC's Dean McHenry Award for Distinguished Leadership in the Academic Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

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Donald Potts
Vanita Seth
Patty Gallagher
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Elizabeth Abrams, Chair

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