

**COMMITTEE ON DISTINGUISHED CAMPUS SERVICE
NOMINATION FOR THE 2021-2022 DISTINGUISHED CAMPUS SERVICE AWARD**

Professor Jingsong Zhang

The Academic Senate Committee on Distinguished Service is pleased to nominate Professor Jingsong Zhang of the Chemistry Department for this year's award. Our nomination is based on Zhang's service to his department as well as the department of Biochemistry, and significant service to multiple academic senate committees at UCR and systemwide. One of his faculty and administrative colleagues describes his record as "exceptional and broad," and the Committee agrees.

Professor Zhang was respected by his colleagues in the Chemistry Department for his three-year stint as Chair. One noteworthy accomplishment was his successful recruitment of a Nobel Prize winner to campus—a service to the entire campus, as well as his department. Members of the Chemistry Department describe his leadership as "calm, thoughtful, and fair." Because of these characteristics he was asked by the Dean of CNAS to become Chair of the Biochemistry Department, in part because of conflicts in that department. He took the position on a year-to-year basis, and he is now completing his second year. Zhang's effective leadership of two different departments, one of which has experienced challenges in collegiality, is a significant achievement. An administrative colleague in CNAS writes that this service is Professor Zhang's "unique and substantive accomplishment to-date."

Zhang has worked hard to develop the trust and respect of the Biochemistry faculty, and he has spearheaded the department's successful effort to get a major and highly competitive grant. This is a GAANN grant—Department of Education Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Grant. The grant will benefit graduate students and faculty for many years to come, and it is a significant accomplishment.

Another area of major service contributions by Professor Zhang is in "preparatory education." He chaired the UCR campus Committee on Preparatory Education (CPE) for two years, and he is currently Chair of the systemwide UC preparatory education committee. These assignments involve consideration of important issues, especially following the UC decision not to continue to employ the SAT/ACT. Zhang has taken a strong leadership role in guiding the campus and university through delicate debates in these rapidly changing times. He has taken the time to become familiar with many of the details of the issues pertaining to preparation for university work, and he has exhibited his characteristically calm and thoughtful leadership style.

A noteworthy part of Professor Zhang's service has been his outreach efforts in the Riverside Unified School District's Science and Engineering Fair and another inland empire science and engineering fair. His consistent and deep engagement in these outreach activities no doubt bolstered his contributions to undergraduate preparatory education policies and practices.

One of his faculty colleagues identifies three main themes in Professor Zhang's service. First has been "activity around graduate and undergraduate education." (With regard to the former, he

has served on Graduate Council.) Second has been his willingness to take on administrative duties “beyond normal expectations.” A third theme has been public service and community engagement. The Committee finds that these themes nicely sum up, but only scratch the surface of, Zhang’s long and distinguished career of service.