Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer Report to the Riverside Division
May 21, 2019

Nomination of Distinguished Professor Bir Bhanu for 2019-2020 Faculty Research Lecturer

From its inception well over half a century ago, the Faculty Research Lecturer Award has been the highest honor that the Academic Senate bestows. This year we received seven outstanding nominations, and they came from all three colleges. We are delighted to place in nomination Distinguished Professor Bir Bhanu, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Bourns School of Engineering. If approved, Professor Bhanu would be the first member of the faculty of the Bourns School to receive this award in the 29 years of the existence of the school. It is particularly appropriate for him to make history in this way, because he was one of the founding faculty of the Bourns School of Engineering at UCR—a school that has been an outstanding addition to the campus, and is widely recognized as a first-rate school of engineering.

Professor Bhanu is an internationally known and highly regarded researcher in the development of "intelligent systems"—systems that contribute both to understanding human intelligence and offer help in the development of practical applications to engineering and societal needs. The research includes autonomous systems, interactive problem solving, and intelligent integration of information. Bhanu has made significant contributions to all of these very active and important areas of analysis and application. He is the founding Director of the Center for Research in Intelligent Systems (CRIS) at UCR.

Professor Bhanu has been extremely productive: 152 journal papers, 360 reviewed conference papers, 57 book chapters, and thirteen books (authored or edited). He has edited or co-edited (with some of the top researches in the world) 16 special issues of highly rated and well-respected journals. He has received about 22 million dollars of research funding while at UCR, and approximately 30 million during the course of his career. He has received many prestigious awards in his areas of research, including being elected as a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the International Association of Pattern Recognition, the International Society for Optics and Photonics, and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

In addition to his extraordinary research productivity and service to the Bourns School and UCR, Professor Bhanu has maintained a very active level of teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He received UCR's Doctoral Dissertation Mentor Award in 2011. He has supervised the research of about 68 graduate students (42 PhDs), 58 undergraduates, and 18 postdoctoral fellows. He has served on PhD dissertation committees (external examiner) in Canada, Japan, Mexico, Chine, Australia, India, and Singapore. The nominating letter by the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education in the Bourns School describes his record of student mentorship (particularly important in the field of engineering) as "astounding."

Professor Bhanu has exhibited all of the virtues of an academic leader: research productivity and international influence (and respect), outstanding teaching and mentorship at all levels, and remarkable service. (To help to found a school involves significant administrative and academic challenges; *everything* has to built from the ground up.)

For these reasons and more (too numerous to mention), we, the undersigned members of the Academic Senate Committee on the Faculty Research lecture, unanimously and enthusiastically nominate, as Faculty Research Lecturer for 2019-2020, Distinguished Professor Bir Bhanu.

John Martin Fischer, Philosophy, Chair
Carl F. Cranor, Philosophy
Alexander S. Raikhel, Entomology
David Reznick, Evolution Ecology, and Organismal Biology
Robert Russell, Economics