Background Statement: In 1996, the Academic Senate Research and Professional Development Committee was charged with making recommendations concerning research and professional development activities for the campus. Although excellence in teaching is the first responsibility of all Cal Poly faculty, committee members believe that Cal Poly can benefit significantly through increased recognition and support to faculty efforts in their other scholarly work.

WHEREAS, Cal Poly is an institution known for its high quality of undergraduate education, where graduate programs have traditionally played a small role and faculty teaching of undergraduates has been the highest priority; and

WHEREAS, While recognizing the primacy of the Scholarship of Teaching, the Cal Poly Strategic Plan calls for increased support to enhance the Scholarships of Discovery, Integration, and Application, and encourage faculty activities which lead to professional growth and achievement; and

WHEREAS, The Scholarships of Teaching, Discovery, Integration, and Application through research and creative activities are crucial for the continued growth and development of a community of faculty and student scholars; and

WHEREAS, The established Cal Poly Distinguished Teaching Awards provide due recognition to excellence in teaching, however accomplishments research and professional development are considered only to the extent that they relate to teaching excellence; and

WHEREAS, Many universities, including other CSU campuses, recognize through targeted awards the distinguished accomplishments of faculty in the arenas of research, and creative activity, and professional development; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That a Cal Poly “Distinguished Research, Creative Activity and Professional Development Award” program be established to recognize faculty achievements in these areas; and be it further
RESOLVED, That each Distinguished Research, Creative Activity and Professional Development Award consist of a certificate, suitable for framing, and a cash award in an amount equal to the most recently presented Distinguished Teaching Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That as soon as funding is available, two awards be presented annually; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a quasi-endowment be established to provide sustained funding for the awards and that the University administration be asked to solicit donations so that the endowment funding may be implemented at the earliest possible opportunity; and be it further

RESOLVED, That until such time that the endowment is in place and yielding sufficient income, that temporary funding for the awards be requested from the University administration; and be it further

RESOLVED, That recipients of the Distinguished Research, Creative Activity and Professional Development Awards be recognized during the fall conference convocation or at another suitable public occasion; and be it further

RESOLVED, To avoid confusion, that the Academic Senate’s Faculty Awards Committee be renamed the “Distinguished Teaching Awards Committee;” and be it further

RESOLVED, That an Academic Senate “Distinguished Research, Creative Activity and Professional Development Awards Committee” be established to conduct the selection process and determine on an ongoing basis the policies and procedures to be used for selecting recipients of the awards; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the attached “Guidelines for the Cal Poly Distinguished Research, Creative Activity and Professional Development Awards” be adopted as the initial policies and procedures for administering the award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate approve the attached “Guidelines for the Cal Poly Distinguished Research, Creative Activity and Professional Development Award” and that these recommendations be forwarded to the President and Provost of Cal Poly.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Research and Professional Development Committee
Date April 2, 2003
Revised: April 29, 2003
Revised: May 8, 2003
GUIDELINES FOR THE CAL POLY DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH, CREATIVE ACTIVITY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

(MAY 28, 2003)

General Guidelines:

1) All current faculty (members of collective bargaining unit 3) are eligible. Candidates must be Cal Poly faculty for at least 3 years (equivalent full-time) before becoming eligible. Candidates must continue to be active in teaching or in the specialty areas for which they were hired.

2) The committee should seek variety in the awards over time, seeking to recognize both junior and senior faculty, both research and other creative activities, and different disciplines.

3) The award shall recognize a specific contribution or body of work, as opposed to general achievements. The award shall be for work done primarily at Cal Poly.

4) The awards committee shall include one voting General Faculty representative from each college, the UCTE, and Professional Consultative Services. Two voting ex officio student members shall be chosen to represent the ASI. The Senate is encouraged to include up to a maximum of three past award recipients among the college, UCTE, and PCS representatives.

5) An application form and suitable deadlines shall be established. Candidates may be self-nominated or nominated by other faculty, students, or alumni. The application should contain sufficient material to permit the nominee’s evaluation according to the following selection criteria.

Selection Criteria (select from the following as appropriate to the nominee’s discipline):

1) Importance to students, evidenced by any of the following:
   - Excellence in teaching which derives from research and professional development activities
   - Excellence in inculcating, motivating and promoting R&PD activities
   - Quality and significance of associated senior projects, theses, etc.
   - Curriculum improvement and enhanced teaching/learning by self and others
   - Quality of the impact on students’ experience

2) Quality (impact/usefulness) of the work should be emphasized over quantity, as evidenced by any of the following:
   - Helping to improve the human condition and quality of life
   - Contributions to knowledge and practice
   - Wide peer recognition of the work as substantial, seminal, scholarly

3) Use of the nominee’s ideas and other creative products by practitioners
   - Degree of innovation
   - Publications or presentations in refereed media
   - Other books, chapters, articles, teaching cases, and instructional materials
   - Presentations or performances at peer recognized events

4) Importance to Cal Poly, evidenced by any of the following:
   - Enhanced status of Cal Poly or its academic units
   - Significant grants and contracts received
   - Mentoring and facilitating the professional development of other faculty and staff
   - Curriculum innovation in ways that are important to industry and/or practice
To: UnnyMenon  
Chair, Academic Senate

From: Warren J. Baker  
President

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-602-03/RP&D  
Resolution on Establishing a Faculty Award to Recognize Distinguished Research,  
Creative Activity and Professional Development at Cal Poly

This will acknowledge receipt, and approval, of the above subject Resolution. I am pleased to see that the Senate Research and Professional Development Committee has taken the initiative to formally recognize outstanding research and professional development activities conducted by the Cal Poly faculty. I am committed to fund two awards annually from the President's discretionary funds until such a time that a quasi-endowment can be established to provide sustained funding for the awards.

Please extend my appreciation to the Research and Professional Development Committee for the excellent work they accomplished to initiate this award process.