UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

ACADEMIC SENATE

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

2023-2024 Senate Award for Distinguished Early Career Research

The Senate Award for Distinguished Early Career Research (for non-tenured faculty) is intended to encourage and recognize individuals for research and/or other creative activities that have had a major impact on the field, either through a sustained record of contributions or through a specific, highly influential contribution. A list of previous recipients is provided on pages 2 and 3, and is available at https://senate.ucmerced.edu/previous_senate_awardees.

Eligibility

Nominees for the Distinguished Early Career Research Award must be regular ladder-rank UCM faculty (not adjunct) who hold un-tenured faculty positions (Assistant Professor) at the time of nomination. Previous nominees who have not won the award may be nominated again.

Criteria for Award

Distinguished scholarship, as recognized through these awards, is characterized by originality and creativity of the contribution and its impact on one or more disciplines or emerging interdisciplinary fields. If the work on which the nomination is based is primarily collaborative, the nominee's role in the collaboration and the noteworthiness of the nominee's contribution must be clear. The award is intended primarily to recognize work carried out at UC Merced, although work done by faculty before coming to Merced will also be considered.

Nomination Process

Initial nominations for the Senate Award for Distinguished Early Career Research will be accepted from any member of the academic community (students, faculty, staff, alumni). A nomination may be put forth by a faculty or staff member, or by a student or group of students. The nomination should discuss how the faculty nominee meets the criteria listed above. **Nominations should be submitted electronically as one PDF packet to the Chair of the Academic Senate (senatechair@ucmerced.edu) with a copy to (senateoffice@ucmerced.edu) and must include the following:**

1. **A nomination form.**
2. One nomination letter (maximum of two pages) that highlights the outstanding accomplishments of the nominee in research and/or other creative activities while at UCM. This letter should be written by a UCM faculty member who is familiar with the nominee's accomplishments in these areas. Faculty with administrative appointments (e.g., deans) may serve as nominators.
3. Current and complete curriculum vitae.
4. Copies of up to five of the most significant publications and/or other scholarly or creative contributions, emphasizing work performed at UC Merced.
5. In addition to the nomination letter, two supporting letters (suggested length one to two pages) specifically solicited for this nomination. These letters should be from experts in the nominee's field of

research who are able to evaluate the quality, originality, and impact of the nominee's work. These letters may be written by individuals either at UC Merced or at other campuses or institutions.

Selection Process

The Committee on Research (COR) will form an ad hoc committee from its membership to serve as the COR Awards Committee with a minimum of three faculty. The COR Awards Committee will have balanced representation from different academic areas. If additional expertise is needed, non-COR committee members will be appointed by COR. The COR Awards Committee reserves the right to not give an award if there is an insufficient number of nominees, or if nominees do not meet the above criteria for the award.

Based on the initial letters of nomination, the COR Awards Committee will select a slate of finalists from the pool of nominees. Supporting materials for the finalists may be solicited (e.g., published textbooks, articles on pedagogy, additional letters of support, and other evidence of exceptional research activities). All materials and notes will be held in confidence by the COR Awards Committee.

The COR Awards Committee will review nominees and select a recipient based on majority vote. The COR Awards Committee will complete its selection process and inform the Chair of the Academic Senate (senatechair@ucmerced.edu) and the Senate Office (senateoffice@ucmerced.edu) of the results. On the recommendation of the Awards Committee, any finalist may be nominated for the award the following year.

Deadline for Nominations: 5:00pm, Friday, March 22, 2024.

The announcement of the recipient will be made during the UC Merced Spring Meeting of the Division.

Past Recipients

2022-2023 – Rachel Ryskin

2021-2022 – Xuecai (Susan) Ge

2020-2021 – Jennifer Howell

2019-2020 – Kirk Jensen

2018-2019 – Anand Bala Subramaniam

2017-2018 - Christine Isborn

2016-2017 - Fred Wolf

2015-2016 - Clarissa Nobile

2014-2015 - Masashi Kitazawa

2013 -2014 - Michael Cleary

2012-2013 - Laura Hamilton

2011-2012 - Jessica Trounstine

2010-2011 - Ming-Hsuan Yang