



VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Officers, Deans, Directors, and Department Chairs

FROM: Juan M. Sanchez
Vice President for Research

CC: Mr. George H. Mitchell, The University Co-operative Society

DATE: December 6, 2011

SUBJECT: 2011-2012 UNIVERSITY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY
RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

I am soliciting nominations for the University Co-operative Society Research Excellence Awards from the Dean of each college, from the Provost, and from each Vice President to whom an ORU reports. Each Dean or Vice President may submit one nominee for each of the two categories of Research Excellence Awards described below. I also request your assistance in publicizing and promoting these awards for outstanding research and scholarship by faculty members (i.e., tenured and tenure-track faculty, senior lecturers, and lecturers) and members of the research staff (Code 1000 personnel and postdoctoral fellows). A certificate and a monetary prize will accompany each award. The winners of this year's awards will be announced at a banquet to be hosted by the University Co-operative Society in October 2012.

These awards are made possible by a very generous gift from the University Co-operative Society, which has made it possible for The University of Texas at Austin to recognize and reward truly outstanding research efforts of our faculty and research staff.

University Co-operative Society Research Excellence Awards will be made in each of the following categories:

- **CAREER RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD:** One award will be made to a faculty member or staff researcher who has maintained a superior research program across many years. The award will be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$10,000.

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- **BEST RESEARCH PAPER:** One award will be made to a faculty member or staff researcher who was the principal or sole author of a peer-reviewed scholarly paper reporting original research that was published during the preceding year (calendar year 2011) in recognized research outlets in his or her field of study. The award will be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$5,000.

I leave to the nominator's discretion how nominees are selected, although I would encourage you to actively solicit nominations from your faculty and Code 1000 personnel. All nominations must include: (1) a letter of nomination from the Dean or Vice President; (2) the nominee's complete CV; and (3) a letter of support from a UT-Austin faculty member or Code 1000 researcher who has expertise in the nominee's area of research.

In addition to the aforementioned items, nominations for Best Research Paper must also be accompanied by a copy of the nominated paper. Evidence of a research publication's quality may include evidence of scholarly impact (e.g., citation index, popular press coverage, selection as a journal cover, etc.). The letter of recommendation from a UT-Austin faculty member or researcher that accompanies best paper nominations should, *using non-technical language*, make it clear why the nominated paper is particularly significant.

Nominations for the Research Excellence Awards should be submitted to the Office of the Vice President for Research **by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 20, 2012**. A committee of faculty and Code 1000 researchers will review the nominations and select the awardees.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Liza Scarborough at liza@austin.utexas.edu or 471-2877.

JMS:ls

cc: Mr. George H. Mitchell, The University Co-operative Society