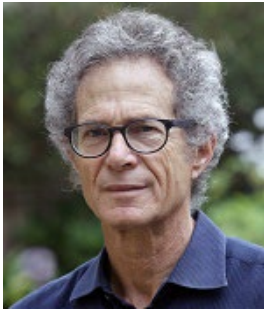


2026 Oliver Johnson Award Recipients



Robert Horwitz (UC San Diego)

Robert Horwitz is a professor emeritus of communication at UC San Diego whose career reflects more than four decades of distinguished scholarship and extraordinary service to the University of California. A political sociologist by training, his academic work has examined democracy, communication, and political reform.

Professor Horwitz's service to the Academic Senate has been extensive and impactful and includes substantial leadership at both the campus and systemwide levels. At UC San Diego, he served multiple terms as department chair and played a central role in undergraduate education, while also contributing extensively to Senate committees, including chairing the Committee on Academic Personnel. He went on to serve as vice chair and chair of the UC San Diego Academic Senate (2017–19), where he led major initiatives on faculty welfare, academic planning, and shared governance, and successfully advanced key proposals such as new colleges and the School of Public Health.

His leadership extended systemwide as vice chair and chair of the systemwide Academic Senate (2020–22), where he represented faculty across the university and served as Faculty Representative to the Regents. During this period, he guided the Senate through complex challenges, including pandemic-related policies and impacts, transfer pathway reform, climate action, and the defense of academic freedom. Known for his analytical rigor, collaborative leadership, and tireless commitment, Professor Horwitz consistently brought diverse stakeholders together to achieve meaningful outcomes.

Even in retirement, he continues to serve the university through leadership on climate initiatives and advisory roles. His depth of service, principled leadership, and lasting institutional impact make him richly deserving of the Oliver Johnson Award for Distinguished Leadership in the Academic Senate.



Adrienne Lavine (UC Los Angeles)

Adrienne Lavine is a professor emeritus of mechanical and aerospace engineering at UCLA whose career reflects exceptional leadership in both faculty governance and institutional innovation. Over decades of service, she has made lasting contributions to the Senate, undergraduate education, and the advancement of teaching and learning.

Professor Lavine served as vice chair and chair of the UCLA Academic Senate (2004–06), where she was widely respected for her principled, inclusive leadership and her ability to elevate faculty voice in major university decisions. Her work on admissions policy was particularly significant: through her service on as chair of the UCLA Committee on Admissions and Relations with Schools in 2016–17 and a member of systemwide Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), she helped guide thoughtful, equity-focused approaches to undergraduate admissions during critical periods.

Beyond the Senate, Lavine has played a transformative role in shaping teaching and learning at UCLA. As Associate Vice Provost for the Center for the Advancement of Teaching since 2017, she built strong partnerships between faculty, Senate committees, and administration, expanding professional development and advancing inclusive teaching practices. Her leadership of the Holistic Evaluation of Teaching initiative stands as a particularly significant contribution: through a multi-year, consultative process, she developed a widely adopted framework that broadens how teaching is assessed and valued across campus and nationally.

Known for her collaborative approach, steady leadership, and commitment to shared governance, Lavine has strengthened both Senate processes and institutional culture. Her enduring impact on faculty governance and teaching excellence makes her a deserving recipient of the Oliver Johnson Award.