

UCAR University Relations Committee Meeting
5 October 2005
Boulder, Colorado
DRAFT NOTES

The University Relations Committee met in Boulder on 5 October 2004. Prior to that meeting, the URC participated in the UCAR Members' meeting held on 4-5 October.

Committee members present:

John Merrill, Outgoing Chairman, The University of Rhode Island
James Hansen, Incoming Chairman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mary Barth, MMM, Earth & Sun Systems Laboratory, NCAR
Ginger Caldwell, SCD, Computational & Information Systems Laboratory, NCAR
Ned Chamberlain, ATD, Earth Observing Laboratory, NCAR
Kerry Cook, Cornell University
Clara Deser, CGD, Earth & Sun Systems Laboratory, NCAR
Joanne Graham, Unidata, UOP
Everette Joseph, Howard University
Michael Morgan, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Richard Orville, Texas A&M University
Alan Robock, Rutgers University
Wendy Schreiber-Abshire, COMET, UOP
Eugene Takle, Iowa State University
Anne Thompson, The Pennsylvania State University
Lisa White, San Francisco State University
S.T. Wu, University of Alabama in Huntsville
Sepideh Yalda, Millersville University of Pennsylvania

NSF/ATM:

Cliff Jacobs, Head, UCAR & Lower-Atmosphere Facilities Oversight Section

Others present for all or part of the meeting were:

Richard Anthes, President, UCAR
Valerie Koch, Budget & Planning Office, NCAR
Jack Fellows, Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Director of UOP
Susan Friberg, Administrator, UCAR
Maura Hagan, Program Director, ASP/Societal-Environmental Research & Education Laboratory, NCAR
Bob Henson, UCAR Communications
Tim Hundsorfer, Budget & Planning Office, NCAR
Tim Killeen, Director, NCAR
Roger Wakimoto, Associate Director, Earth Observing Laboratory, NCAR
Susan Warner, Executive Assistant, UCAR
Larry Winter, Deputy Director, NCAR

WEDNESDAY, 5 OCTOBER

1. Welcome and regular business items

Chairman John Merrill welcomed the committee and guests. He reviewed the agenda and then reviewed the draft notes from the April 2005 meeting; **the meeting notes were approved by the committee.**

2. Orientation for new members

Merrill introduced the new URC members: Wendy Schreiber-Abshire (COMET/UOP), Ned Chamberlain (EOL/NCAR), Clara Deser (ESSL/NCAR), Alan Robock (Rutgers), and Anne Thompson (Penn State); and thanked the outgoing URC members for their service on the committee: Mary Barth, Ginger Caldwell, Joanne Graham, Ken Pickering and Gene Takle. Merrill then went on to list the main responsibilities of the committee. Rick Anthes added that the URC is in the process of expanding their role and becoming more involved in the planning of NCAR and UCAR activities; he hoped that the committee would play a significant role in updating the UCAR Strategic Plan.

3. Non-core and non-NSF Proposal Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chairwoman Kerry Cook reported that the Subcommittee reviewed 15 proposals which were randomly selected from NCAR and UOP proposals submitted from January through June 2005. During their review, the subcommittee found that some proposals prepared formulaic replies to the question why this activity does not compete unfairly with universities and that some of the university collaboration cited in the proposals was questionable. Also discussed was the role of operational support in UCAR's mission. It was agreed that more clarity in the responses was needed and would be provided in the future. **The URC received the subcommittee's report on their proposal review.**

The URC appointed the following subcommittee members for the next proposal review period:
Michael Morgan, Chairman
David Karoly
S.T. Wu

Merrill asked that the time-line of the review process be moved up which would then give the subcommittee more time in examining the proposals. He also assigned the new subcommittee the task of reviewing the draft of the revised procedures and bringing to the Spring meeting their recommendation on the revisions. To aid in this, Merrill asked that the former subcommittee members forward their comments to M. Morgan, D. Karoly, and S.T. Wu.

At this time the gavel was passed from Merrill to Jim Hansen, the newly appointed URC Chairperson.

4. URC Liaison Reports

Several committee members gave liaison reports on their respective divisions. S.T. Wu visited with each section head of HAO and found the morale high, the science good, and the leadership strong. Michael Morgan, reported on SCD's Advisory Panel meeting that was held last week. He said that disk space is a big concern, that customer support has been expanded, but that the big issue is the obsolescence of the Mesa Lab facility. He noted the study now underway to look at options for a next generation computing center.

Following these reports, the utility of the liaison role was discussed. In light of time constraints, it was decided that this discussion would continue off-line between Hansen and Anthes.

Maura Hagan, ASP Director, reported on the inauguration of The Faculty Fellowship Program this past year. She confirmed that the length of stay (between three mos. and one year) and amount of money awarded is still an open option and considered on a case-by-case basis. She continued by reporting that the URC subcommittee, charged with reviewing the applicant pool, also made recommendations for the next cycle—namely to increase the timing between the announcement and the deadline and to reach a broader audience than just class A institutions. Hagan agreed to work with the subcommittee on these issues.

The URC appointed the following subcommittee members to next year's applicant review cycle of the NCAR Faculty Fellowship Program:

Everette Joseph
Alan Robock
Anne Thompson
Sepi Yalda

5 URC involvement in the NCAR and UCAR Strategic Plans

UCAR President Anthes led the discussion on the strategic plans of UCAR and NCAR. After Anthes commented that the URC has been involved in the development of the NCAR Strategic Plan, NCAR Associate Director Larry Winter invited the URC to continue their involvement by commenting on the second draft of the plan which will be out by the end of October. Anthes then asked the URC to help in the creation of the UCAR Strategic Plan. He continued by saying that university input is vital in the development of this plan and that he would like the URC to be involved on the creating side, and not just have a critiquing role. The discussion ended with Anthes agreeing to get back to the URC before April on ideas for URC involvement but in the meantime he asked the committee to scout out their institution's strategic plans and, if appropriate, to forward it to him. Hansen asked that this be a major agenda item for the Spring URC meeting—URC's Role in the Development of UCAR's Strategic Plan.

6. Spring URC meeting

The URC accepted the invitation of Lisa White to host the Spring meeting at San Francisco State University. The dates of April 18-19 were suggested but it was decided to explore earlier dates; the committee will be notified via email on the final meeting dates.

7. Unstructured discussion

The October meeting's Open House and Poster Session forum was discussed with most agreeing that it was a successful event. Jack Fellows, UCAR Vice President of Corporate Affairs, said that the posters and questions asked during the plenary discussion would be captured on a website and available shortly to the community. The committee expressed hope that proposals between universities and NCAR would come out of the interaction at the poster session.

Hansen then turned the discussion to classified research and asked what UCAR's thoughts are on this. Anthes replied that UCAR will not do classified research at this time but NCAR employees may participate with a third party, thus leaving the door open for individual choice.

The committee adjourned at 6:05pm.

~ End of Notes ~