

President's Advisory Committee on University Relations (PACUR)
Wednesday 15 October 2008
Boulder, Colorado

Meeting Notes – DRAFT

Present:

Lisa White, Chair, San Francisco State University
Wendy Abshire, NCAR/COMET
Lisa Dilling, University of Colorado at Boulder
Gordon Farquharson, NCAR/EOL
Eve Gruntfest, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
Vanda Grubisic, Desert Research Institute, University of Nevada System
Marika Holland, NCAR/CGD
Greg Hakim, University of Washington
Robert Hart, Florida State University
David Nolan, University of Miami
Joyce Penner, University of Michigan
Len Pietrafesa, North Carolina State University
Alan Robock, Rutgers University
Roger Samelson, Oregon State University
Sepideh Yalda, Millersville University
S.T. Wu, University of Alabama at Huntsville
Sharon Zhong, Michigan State University

UCAR/NCAR/UOP attendees:

Rick Anthes, UCAR President
Jack Fellows, Vice President Corporate Affairs, Director UOP
Eric Barron, NCAR Director
Maura Hagen, NCAR Deputy Director
Susan Friberg, Governance Liaison
Aneka Finley, Governance Office
Mary Marlino, Director, NCAR Library
Bob Henson, UCAR Communications
Michelle Flores, UCAR Governance
Roger Wakimoto, EOL Director
Valerie Koch, NCAR Budget Analyst
Jennifer Wilson, NCAR Budget Analyst
Zhenya Gallon, UCAR Communications
Hanne Mauriello, UOP Budget and Administration
Helen Moshak, NCAR Directorate Operations
Kathy Strand, UCAR President's Office
Rena Brasher-Alleva, NCAR Budget and Planning Director
Raj Pandya, SOARS Director
Caron Chambers, NCAR Budget and Planning
Peter Backlund, Director of NCAR Research Relations

Brante Foote, EOL Director

Others:

Cliff Jacobs, Head, UCAR and Lower Atmospheric Facilities, ATM/NSF

Sarah Ruth, Program Coordinator, UCAR and Lower Atmospheric Facilities, ATM/NSF

The PACUR convened at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, 15 October 2008.

1. Welcome and Introductions

PACUR Chair Lisa White welcomed the committee, and introduced new committee members Lisa Dilling and Marika Holland, and re-elected members Wendy Abshire, Gordon Farquaharson, and Alan Robock. She thanked the members whose terms are expiring this year: Clara Deser, Jim Hansen, Sephi Yalda and Trustee Liaison Len Pietrefesa.

2. Review of Agenda and Approval

Lisa White noted a revision to the agenda: postponement of the NCAR Library presentation, and the addition of Raj Pandya, Director of SOARS and Community Building to outline the diversity listening conferences that he, Kathy Strand, and a broad advisory committee from across the community, are planning for 2009.

3. UCAR President's Remarks and Review of Committee Charge

UCAR President Rick Anthes reviewed the committee charge and thanked the committee for staying on to attend the PACUR after the last few long days of meetings.

4. Review of Meeting Notes

Lisa White asked for approval of the April Meeting Notes. After a few corrections were requested and duly noted, it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the meeting notes.

5. Annual Meeting Review

Jack Fellows led a discussion of the Annual Members' Meeting, which adjourned earlier in the afternoon. One of PACUR responsibilities is to advise UCAR on the theme and form of the Annual Members Meeting. The committee discussed the forum sessions in particular and the possible next steps. Some ideas and comments:

- The Members Meeting Forum was very successful this year.
- Engage the Western Governors Association with some of the ideas coming out of the Members Meeting forums on adaptation and mitigation.
- Set up Hill briefing on the outcome of the meetings.
- Keynote speakers and their talks were both very good.
- Geoengineering remains an interesting topic and perhaps should be discussed next year.
- Want to hear more about re-focusing research towards adaption/migration. Should stakeholders have more input in setting research agendas?
- Need to look at how the science is communicated to stakeholders and the public.

- Need resources to carry this through.
- A lot of great ideas came from the forum about what the community can do—both the universities and NCAR/UCAR. Some regional adaptation solutions could be discussed next year.
- Good listening and communications between different groups – good diversity within the forum groups.
- Impressed with the number of women leading the forums and discussions.

6. UCAR Listening Conferences

Director of SOARS and Community Building Raj Panda reported on his planning efforts for a set of listening conferences tentatively titled: *Working together to build a diverse workforce in the climate and weather sciences*. These conferences will focus on Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)—tribal colleges, community colleges, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and HBCU's. Pandya said that he believes that enhancing research and education at MSIs is critical because they are uniquely situated to support and develop a next generation workforce that reflects the diversity of the U.S. society. The listening conferences would focus on the interests of these institutions and how UCAR can connect with them. Rick Anthes said that we may need to find a way to fund these conferences because of the current budget squeeze; one idea would be to partner with a university and use this as a research project and an opportunity to evaluate if diversity partnerships and goals are successful and sustainable.

7. UCAR Communications Products

Bob Henson, Senior Writer in the UCAR Communications office presented a concept for a new UCAR magazine, ideas for social networking and an upgrade to UCAR Quarterly, a publication aimed at the UCAR community. Henson said that the goals of the communication office are to publicize research findings, build new ways to communicate effectively with each other, and do it cost effectively. Communications recently conducted an employee survey about how people wanted to get their information and most people said that they would like to have less frequent printed materials with additional on-line supplemental materials. UCAR Update, an on-line compilation of opportunities at NCAR and UCAR, has a new proposed look that will make it easier to find topics of interest. UCAR Quarterly, published 4 times a year would morph into UCAR magazine published 3 times a year; it would launch May 2009. Henson said he hopes to include new features such as a regular column by a university member or affiliate. Another idea is to build a UCAR community blog that would take contributions from UCAR, NCAR and universities: possible content would be update on meetings, field projects, major weather events, science issues and hot news topics. The sense from the PACUR is that blogs are read when they are controversial, but may be useful in reaching a certain demographic, such as students.

8. PACUR Proposal Subcommittee Report

Cliff Jacobs gave a brief history on the origins of the audit that the PACUR subcommittee conducts of the UCAR and NCAR review of non-core proposals submitted to NSF, NOAA, NASA, DOE, EPA, etc. He reported that this activity is so important to NSF that it has been written into the new NCAR cooperative agreement. Jacobs said that

non-NSF funding at NCAR is routinely looked at by NSF to ensure that NCAR does not unfairly compete with the universities when it submits proposals for non-core funding to NSF and the other agencies. It was also mentioned that the joint meeting PACUR held a year ago with the NCAR scientists was very helpful and should be convened from time to time, especially since the guidelines have been updated since then.

Vanda Grubisic, Chair of the PACUR proposal audit subcommittee, reported on the spring cycle of proposals—those over \$100K submitted between January-July 2008. She reported that the sub-committee chose 20 proposals from approximately 83 submitted, and that while all were in compliance, there were two issues in particular that the subcommittee raised—How are collaborators chosen? What is the NCAR process for proposals that have very small sub-award to universities? And two issues lingering from the previous cycle: co-sponsorship of divisional GAUs potentially creating an unfair NCAR advantage in the proposal competition, and a perceived geographical basis in selecting university collaborations. The final report addresses these issues and the responses.

The subcommittee assured the PACUR that Eric Barron and the NCAR B&P office have answered in detail the particular questions raised, and expressed their appreciation of the responsiveness of NCAR and UOP and their willingness to establish new processes if necessary to ensure the fairness of the proposal submissions, such as in the situation addressing the divisional GAUs. In the future, the final report comprised of all related written matter (subcommittee report, UCAR and NCAR response, any minutes of joint conference calls, white papers related to any of the issues, etc.) will be available for committee members, NSF and UCAR before each meeting.

The subcommittee also talked about whether they need to continue to look at UOP proposals since UOP programs do not have core funding. It was decided that the subcommittee will continue to look at these proposals for completeness.

The new subcommittee members are: Sharon Zhong (continuing), S.T. Wu (signing up for a second stint- thank you S.T.!), and Bob Hart. (Dick Orville, who was not able to attend the meeting, nevertheless was invited to participate again; he agreed.)

9. Unstructured Discussion

The committee then discussed where to hold the spring meeting. David Nolan volunteered the University of Miami. Discussion of date and final venue will continue on email.

Lisa White agreed to continue to chair PACUR. She expressed the committee's thanks to Sepi Yalda for her service on PACUR over the past six years.