Academic Affiliates Program Report

In attendance:

UCAR/NCAR/UOP:
Rick Anthes; Tim Killeen; Jack Fellows; Roger Wakimoto; Larry Winter

- Oswaldo Garcia
  San Francisco State University
- Lourdes Aviles; Eric Hoffman
  Plymouth state University
- Steven Lazarus; Sen Chiao
  Florida Institute of Technology
- Michael Poellot
  University of North Dakota
- Quinton Williams; Heping Liu
  Jackson State University
- Briget Doyle
  College of Charleston
- Richard Clark
  Millersville University
- John Helsdon
  South Dakota University
- Tony Hansen
  St. Cloud State University
- Scott Rochette
  SUNY Brockport
- David Smith
  US Naval Academy
- Bruce Berryman
  Lyndon State College
- Randall Mandock
  Clark Atlanta University
Agenda

– Institutional Updates

– UCAR 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN – Discussion focusing on AAP perspective

– A plan for eliminating the lack of diversity in the geosciences: Quinton Williams, Jackson State University

– The AMS Guidelines for a BS in Meteorology/Atmospheric Science: Participating in the dialogue: Tony Hansen, St. Cloud State Univ.

– Accreditation of Geosciences programs: The pros and cons of accreditation. Primer for the H&C meeting

– Bringing advances in real-time, dynamic, adaptive, cyber-infrastructure developed through the NSF-funded LEAD project to the national collegiate forecasting contest. (Rich Clark, Millersville University)

– New members to the AAP program. Currently there are 17 members.

– Particular topics/issues that they would like to see discussed at the UCAR October 2007 meeting? This information can be relayed to the URC for consideration.
Larry Winter (NCAR Deputy Director) provided an update of new initiatives at NCAR, including:

- GeoCollaboratory
- Faculty Fellowship Program (5-fold increase in applications: 6 (2005) -> 30 (2006)).
- Revamping the NCAR library (integrated information services; search for a new library director.  
  Opportunity for change*
- Building the Earth system numerical modeling system
- Delivery of the “almost” complete HIAPER

* AAP Action items
Institutional Updates: NCAR

Tim Killeen followed on Larry’s update with the following:

– 125,000 jobs in the geosciences; 50% will retire in the next 10 years. Production rate ~ 4000/year. Growth enterprise

– NCAR Undergraduate Leadership Workshop – fully enrolled and successful
Institutional Update: UCAR

Rick Anthes provided a brief history of the AAP program to highlight its 15th anniversary.

– Discussion on the AAP perspective of the UCAR 2020 Strategic Plan and the AAP role in the future of UCAR/NCAR/UOP*

– Encourages AAP members to participate in the break-out sessions

– New AAP members*

* Action items
Diversity Issues

Quinton Williams presented a model for eliminating the lack of diversity in the atmospheric sciences, which included the following salient points:

- Provided overview of the JSU model and how it might be expanded to include selective access points: taking the institution to the underrepresented groups
- Estimated that the plan might be realized in 20 years based on realistic projections
- Discussion focused on the target group for which this plan would be most effective: precollege, undergrads, grads, early career faculty – yes to the above
- Time is allotted at the H&Cs meeting for a more comprehensive discussion
- Several of the AAP members attended the Diversity break-out session*

* Action Item
AAP Involvement

Tony Hansen led a discussion on how AAP members can be more involved in the AMS and UCAR. This agenda item was expanded from a question as to how to best affect the AMS guidelines for a BS in Meteorology-Atmospheric Science. Key issues are:

- AAP members can serve on AMS BHE and other AMS standing committees/boards, as well as UCAR/NCAR/UOP committees such as URC, Membership, OFAP, Unidata Users and Policy Committees. Several AAP reps are currently serving on some of these committees.

- Is it time for the AAP to have at-large member on the UCAR BOT?

* Action Item
Rich Clark commented on the movement by ABET toward accreditation of geosciences programs.

- The majority of AAP members spoke against the idea of accreditation, citing a broad range of concerns from curricular prescription to fees without a compensating balance in needs and benefits.
- Accreditation can be used to as leverage to argue the need for resources, but can also provide a university administration the justification it needs to eliminate (smaller) programs if the needs are (relatively) exorbitant.
- A letter composed by Tim Bralower (PSU) is floating in which he argues against accreditation.
- Accreditation will be brought up on Thursday (1:00 PM) during the open discussion at the H&Cs meeting*

* Action Item
Forecasting Contest

Rich Clark introduced a plan to integrate user-selected model domains and workflow capabilities developed by LEAD* into the National Collegiate Forecasting Contest beginning in fall 2007.

- Students would use the LEAD portal to identify the forecast site and orchestrate a workflow that would include a suite of Web services designed to provide access to and assimilation of data, the launching of a high-resolution WRF run over the selected domain, storing the metadata in MyLEAD, and visualizing the output in IDV using non-local resources. The purpose is to put new capabilities into the hands of a new generation of end-users in order to demonstrate the benefits and democratization of LEAD technologies.

* Linked Environments for Atmospheric Discovery is funded by NSF-ITR (large) Collaborative. For more info go to http://portal.leadproject.org
New AAP Members

A general discussion of new membership in the Academic Affiliate Program ensued.

– Can we build greater diversity by reaching out to new members?

– This is not a plan to interest potential members for the sake of simply adding AAs.

– AAPs might engage in partnerships with non-AAP institutions

– A suggestion was made by David Smith to make a pitch at the H&Cs meeting seeking interest from institutions that could see themselves benefiting from AAP membership, and reciprocating through participation in UCAR activities*

* Action Item
Action Items

• By the end of this week AAP reps will provide input related to the UCAR 2020 Strategic Plan on two basic questions:
  – What does UCAR/NCAR/UOP mean to the AAP?
  – What can UCAR/NCAR/UOP be doing better?

• The AAP will seek an opportunity to re-open dialogue with the new NCAR library director on access to certain library resources. Can a single, password protected, gateway to library resources be made available to the membership?

• AAP reps will access a list of H&Cs attendees and pitch them on the AAP program
Action Items contd.

- AAP members, through the diversity break-out session group, will brainstorm a plan for long-term and sustained improvement in diversity.
- AAP requests that the UCAR membership consider the addition of an AAP representative as an at-large member of the UCAR BOT.
- AAP will address the issue of accreditation of geosciences programs at the H&Cs meeting.
Thank you.

Questions?