

UCAR  
University Relations Committee  
18-19 April, 2006  
San Francisco State University  
San Francisco, CA

DRAFT NOTES

The University Relations Committee (URC) met at San Francisco State University in San Francisco, CA, on 18-19 April 2006.

University Relations Committee members present:

James Hansen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Chairman  
Kerry Cook, Cornell University  
Efi Foufoula-Georgiou, University of Minnesota  
David Karoly, University of Oklahoma  
John Merrill, University of Rhode Island  
Michael Morgan, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Richard Orville, Texas A&M University  
Alan Robock, Rutgers University  
Wendy Schreiber-Abshire, UOP/COMET  
Lisa White, San Francisco State University  
S.T. Wu, University of Alabama in Huntsville

NSF/ATM:

Cliff Jacobs, Head, UCAR & Lower Atmospheric Facilities Oversight Section  
Bernard Grant, Lower Atmospheric Facilities Oversight Section

UCAR:

Richard Anthes, President, UCAR  
Gordon Farquharson, EOL/NCAR  
Jack Fellows, Vice President of UCAR Corporate Affairs & Director of UOP  
Tim Killeen, Director, NCAR  
Larry Winter, Deputy Director, NCAR  
Susan Friberg, Administrator, UCAR  
Kathy Strand, Special Projects, UCAR President's Office  
Aneka Finley, Assistant Administrator, UCAR

Tuesday, 18 April 2006

1. Welcome, Agenda Review, and October Meeting Notes approval

Lisa White welcomed the URC to San Francisco State University, and expressed her pleasure at being able to host the committee. Chairman Jim Hansen also welcomed the

committee members, reviewed the agenda, and the notes from the October 2005 URC meeting. **The notes were approved by the committee without change.**

UCAR President Rick Anthes thanked the committee for attending the meeting, and gave a brief overview of the development of the new UCAR Strategic plan, saying that he looked forward to the discussions with the committee in break out sessions later in the morning.

## 2. National Science Foundation Report

Cliff Jacobs, Head, UCAR & Lower Atmospheric Facilities Oversight Section ATM/NSF, reported on the FY 2007 NSF budget request to Congress, the NSF Strategic Plan for Cyberinfrastructure, the NSF panel findings and recommendations from the NSF Management Review of NCAR, and updated the committee on the upcoming competition for management of NCAR.

The NSF budget was released in February with an increase of \$439M requested over FY06. Jacobs reminded the URC that the Administration's American Competitive Initiative requests that the overall budget for NSF be doubled over the next ten years. This coming year's increase of 7.9% falls somewhat short of that plan, but this is early in the process.

Jacobs reported on the NSF panel visit to NCAR in March to review the quality of NCAR management. Jacobs noted that the review went very well, and that the panel's final report has been sent to Tim Killeen and Larry Winter with a response due by 1 May. He reviewed the findings and recommendations in detail. Jacobs also reported on the upcoming competition for the management of NCAR, saying that NSF has issued a "Dear Colleague" letter on the web asking those who are planning to submit proposals in the competition to let NSF know via a "capability statement" by 1 May.

## 3. UCAR, NCAR and UOP Status Reports

A. UCAR Update. UCAR President Rick Anthes reviewed the time-line for activities related to the NSF competition for the management of UCAR over the next two years including the completion of the new UCAR strategic plan. He also gave a brief report of activities since the last URC meeting, including Board of Trustee approval of the new policy on classified research, salary increases and the approval of the NCAR and UOP strategic plans. Anthes also reported on the National Science Board's visit to NCAR in February. In addition, he reported on successful launch of the COSMIC satellite on April 14, saying that the project was completed within budget and on schedule.

B. NCAR Update. NCAR Director Tim Killeen reported on current NCAR goals and projects. He reported on the HIAPER aircraft's successful performance during the Terrain Induced Rotor Experiment (T-Rex) field program. He also reported that NCAR is currently talking with NSF and possible partners to establish a Petascale Collaboratory

for the Geosciences, a next generation data center to meet the needs of the entire geoscience community. While there is still some question about the scope of the project, i.e., should it be limited to atmospheric and related science community or broadened to include all of the geosciences, a steering committee has been named to look at possible partners and locations, and assess overall needs. John Merrill suggested that this be presented to the Members at the Annual Meeting in October.

C. UCAR Office of Programs Strategic Plan. UOP Director Jack Fellows reported that the UOP strategic plan was approved by the Board of Trustees in February; he presented an overview of current activities underway in the various UOP programs.

#### 6. UCAR Strategic Plan.

Rick Anthes introduced the draft UCAR Strategic Plan and described the process for community involvement and approval. He said that the Board and URC will have primary review responsibility, with the Members involved in discussing the plan and its implementation with the universities in October, and final Board approval coming by the end of the year.

The committee recessed into the following four break-out groups to consider the plan: Science and Observing Systems; Cyberinfrastructure; Education and Global and Diverse Perspectives; and Mission/Roles. In the following plenary session, each group reported on their discussion and made recommendations; a very productive general review session followed.

The committee recessed to visit SFSU's new Meteorology classroom and new NWS office, and for discussions with faculty and students.

Wednesday, 19 April 2006

#### 7. October Meeting planning.

Chairman Hansen led the planning discussion for the October meetings. Suggestions by the committee included: to hold break-out sessions during the Annual Meeting as an opportunity for the Members Representatives to provide input on implementation of the new UCAR Strategic plan; to discuss how UCAR and the universities can work more closely together within the context of the plan; to discuss how UCAR can more fully support the universities. The following ideas were also explored: webcasting the strategic planning session of the meeting to other faculty at the Members and Affiliate institutions; plan for Open House/ Tours similar to last year's meeting. It was also suggested that UCAR invite early career faculty members to attend the Members Meeting.

8. Non-NSF proposal review sub-committee report.

Sub-committee Chairman Michael Morgan reported that the committee received the non-NSF and non-core proposals from NCAR and UOP, reviewed them according to the criteria, and discussed the proposals during a conference call in advance of the meeting; questions were sent to NCAR Deputy Director Larry Winter and a draft report was prepared. Morgan said that while most of the proposals appeared to satisfy the five criteria, the sub-committee had questions relating to meaningful university or student involvement on three of them. Discussion followed on how to ensure that the guidelines and criteria are clear to those writing the proposals; the responses to the criteria by the UCAR scientific staff are less formulaic; and how to ensure that the universities are fully integrated into the proposal, especially with regard to graduate student training opportunities. A number of options were discussed, such as: in the future the sub-committee only review the proposals that do not have university collaboration or that a system for determining differing levels of university collaboration be developed. There was a lengthy discussion about the first criteria being ambiguously stated. After much discussion, Rick Anthes thanked the committee for their careful attention and noted that, while there are some questions regarding some proposals, university collaborations with NCAR are increasing. Chairman Hansen charged the sub-committee to work with Larry Winter and Jack Fellows on revamping the process and criteria and to report back the URC in October.

9. NCAR Faculty Fellowship Program

Sub-Committee member Alan Robock reported to the group that the sub-committee will meet at end of April and will report to the URC in October.

10. Unstructured Discussion

Rick Anthes updated the URC on Oklahoma Senator James Inhofe's inquiry to NSF about UCAR's funding, structure, employees, etc. Anthes said that UCAR has provided the information requested, but has not provided confidential employee information, and as yet, has received nothing more from the Senator's office.

After a lengthy discussion on the languishing URC liaison activity, Chairman Hansen acknowledged the value of having members of the committee invested in the programs through these more formal links. **It was moved, seconded and passed to evolve the Liaison program into one that is voluntary, and to encourage members of the URC to volunteer to serve on advisory committees within NCAR, if they are interested in more active participation in the programs, labs, and institutes.**

There was also discussion about the importance of developing stronger and more focused international partnerships and collaborations.

More discussion followed on the NCAR computing center for the Geosciences. Larry Winter spoke of the need for a strong partner in the effort, and for plans for a community workshop in the next few months to discuss the facility requirements.

The URC Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

End of Meeting Notes