2007 UCAR AAP MEETING

7:30 – 11:30 am
Tuesday, 9 OCT 2007
AAP Members Present

- College of Charleston, Laney Mills
- San Jose State University, Alison Bridger
- St. Cloud State University, Tony Hanson
- US Naval Academy, David Smith
- South Dakota School of Mines, John Helsdon
- Jackson State University, Quinton Williams
- San Francisco State University, Oswaldo Garcia and Petra Dekins,
- Metro State College, Richard Wagner
- Central Michigan University, Richard Mower and Leigh Orf
- Plymouth State University, Eric Hoffman and Heping Liu,
- Lyndon State College, Bruce Berryman
- Florida Inst. of Technology, Sen Chaio,
- Millersville University, Rich Clark – Meeting Chair

13 of 19 AAPs
Others in Attendance

• UCAR/NCAR:
  – Rick Anthes, UCAR President
  – Jack fellows, Vice President UCAR, Director UOP
  – Tim Killeen, Director of NCAR
  – Larry Winter, Deputy Director of NCAR
  – Mary Marlino, Director of e-Science & NCAR Library
  – Roger Wakimoto, EOL Director
  – Kelvin Droegemeier, Chairman, UCAR BOT
  – Leslie Forehand, NCAR Library

• NSF:
  – Cliff Jacobs ATM Section Head
  – Sarah Ruth, Program manager
Meeting Highlights

• Welcomed new AAP members and discussed prospects for attracting additional members

• Brief history of AAP by Rick Anthes and his trademark high level perspective on the growth and potential of the AAP

• Tim Killeen reiterated the importance of AAP institutions to UCAR/NCAR and challenged the AAP to come up with new ways to attract the next-’generations to the geosciences

• Jack Fellows commented on the vitality of the AAP, new membership, and broadening of the membership

• Cliff Jacobs gave a brief report from NSF, in particular that NSF has a strategic goal to broaden the community and the AAP can play a meaningful role in helping UCAR achieve this goal. Commented on the AAP involvement UCAR/NCAR activities, including many of the committees reporting at this meeting.
Mary Marlino, new Director of e-Science and the NCAR library, and Leslie Forehand, NCAR librarian, presented an informed plan to enhance services for the UCAR community.

**Context of Discussion**

**Libraries at the crossroads**

Need for new models and to re-establish their relevancy

- Analogy of libraries to telephone company of 50 years ago
- Changing notions of content, access, scholarship
  - Now competing with suite of Google products, websites, publishers

Evolving beyond the boundaries of physical and defined space into community forums, virtual collaboratories, etc.
Questions for the AAPs

• What actions would support strategic partnerships with NCAR and the broader UCAR community?

• What do you need now? What will you need in a decade?

• What are your top three priorities for NCAR Library support for your teaching and research?
Questions for the NCAR Library

• AAPs have been pushing for greater access to NCAR library resources for nearly a decade! New opportunity; new library

• Web o’ Science: can an agreement with publisher lead to affordable access to WoS?
  – Can Google Scholars (free) fill this need?
  – What is the future of WoS and Google Scholars?
  – Are there other options for the acquisition of WoS, e.g. State-wide agreements; HBC/MSI group agreements…?

• Can AAPs gain access to specific journals in the NCAR library collection that are too expensive to acquire at single institutions? Interlibrary loan is too slow and expensive

• Survey to AAPs will assess needs
• Mary will continue to press on these issues
• AAPs discussed the issue of accreditation of programs.
  – Accountability is here to stay
  – Better to be proactive rather than waiting for another organization to impose requirements for accreditation
  – No one expressed an interest in a model for accreditation similar to ABET or ACS
  – We all assert that we meet the AMS guidelines (or GS-1340) but there is no external body that evaluates our curriculum for compliance
  – Would something equivalent to the AMS “seal of approval,” not an actual accreditation but a formal recognition that a program curriculum conforms to the AMS guidelines, have teeth and be acceptable to the community?
  – Action Item: Tony Hansen, a member of the AMS BHE, will explore with AMS BHE whether the AMS has any interest in “certificating” undergraduate programs in accordance with its guidelines.
Courses Materials

• Finding or creating a suitable replacement for an online Web based forecasting exercise for use in introductory courses, especially large enrollment courses. This is not WxChallenge.
  – Brings in the appropriate data and products for decision making
  – Automated scoring of student forecasts
  – Reliable and persistence service
  – Hosted at a few institutions for fault tolerance
  – Approach Jack Fellow to see if this would be something that UOP/COMET could develop

• Open discussion on education modules for use in courses for both majors and non-majors.
  – Linked Environments for Atmospheric Discovery (LEAD) has developed several interactive modules on select topics for undergraduate students (see http://portal.leadproject.org). Strengths are guided inquiry, visualization, and use of real-time data.
  – Discussion mainly focused on developing modules for intro courses around topics that are common to these courses and publishing them on the Web for general use. There are many static modules, but few that allow the student to incorporate and work with real-time data.
AMS Guidelines

Are the AMS guidelines for B.S. in meteorology too 1) prescriptive, 2) focused on numbers of credits rather than competency, and 3) insensitive to the reality of mandated credit limitations – every 5 years when the guidelines are revisited, they seem to grow w/o any consideration of maximum credit limits?

• AAPS agree that conforming to the AMS guidelines is important on a number of levels
• Some courses must be prescribed; stating that a student needs dynamics is appropriate.
• But where possible, use language like “competency in content area or topics areas” and get away from prescribing that a student needs three credits in a particular course.
• The discussion was not independent of the earlier topic of “certification” and compliance with the government standard GS1340.
• Next review of guidelines is scheduled for 2009

End of report – Thank you