University Relations Committee

Purpose

The University Relations Committee (URC)

• helps maintain good communication and relationships between the Corporation and members
• acts as an advisory committee to the President, proposing agenda items for members' meetings and proposing activities and programs for UCAR to undertake
• reviews NCAR's non-NSF funding and considers issues of unfair competition by NCAR with university science
• reviews UOP funding for activities that lie outside the scope of the sponsor agreements
University Relations Committee
Membership

2007

Faculty from Member Universities:

NCAR/UOP Representatives
Clara Deser, NCAR (2008)
Gordon Farquharson, NCAR (2008)
Wendy Schreiber-Abshire, UCAR/UOP (2008)

Trustee Liaison
Len Pietrafesa, NCSU (2007)
The URC meets in person twice each year:

(1) Following the Members Meeting
   e.g., Members Meeting post mortem and proposal subcommittee review

(2) Spring at a Member University
   e.g., proposal subcommittee review, discussions of UCAR educational programs (e.g., Faculty Fellowship applications, graduate student programs), initial planning for Fall Meeting -- student presentations and university tours
University Relations Committee
April 2007 Meeting

URC Meeting in Monterey, CA
Hosted by Jim Hansen at the Naval Postgraduate School
UCAR proposals for non-core funding* must satisfy certain criteria.

* Funding outside of the regular NSF-sponsored program.
University Relations Committee
Proposal Reviews

- be mission appropriate
- not compete unfairly with universities
- support or enhance the regular NSF-sponsored NCAR program (leverage)
involve significant and meaningful collaboration with university colleagues

or

develop or support community facilities
The Proposal Review Subcommittee reports to the full URC every 6 months.

The proposals are generally compliant with the criteria. The questions generally are concerned with level of collaboration, student participation, and the nature of core funding at NCAR, including how senior scientists are funded.

The committee revised the criteria and procedures at the spring meeting, and the URC will be meeting with the NCAR Scientists Assembly on Thursday to promote understanding of the criteria and a partnership between University and NCAR scientists in meeting them.
Proposed name change

from: University Relations Committee

to: President’s Advisory Committee on University Relations

Better reflects the evolving role of the URC in advising the President from the University Community on a broad range of issues
e.g., strategic planning, proposal for NCAR management, Faculty Fellowship and Graduate Student programs, metrics
The name change requires a change in the Bylaws, and the URC charge is being modified:

The University Relations Committee (URC) helps strengthen* good communication and relationships between the Corporation and members.

* instead of "maintain"
The Board of Trustees has voted to recommend this amendment to the Members. A vote of 2/3 of the majority of Members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present is required for approval.
Bylaw Change:
University Relations Committee Name Change

Text for URC bylaw change to Article 5, Section 4 to be approved by the UCAR Board of Trustees- August 2007

Section 4. President's Advisory Committee on University Relations

At each annual meeting of the Members, the Members may appoint a President's Advisory Committee on University Relations composed of at least nine individuals, said committee to be chaired by an individual appointed by the President. The duty of said committee shall be to aid the President in improving communications between the corporation and the Members, and it shall present a report at the each annual meeting of the Members.
The role of the URC has evolved, but we remain a point of contact for the Community.
AMS Board on Higher Education is about to conduct a Graduate Admissions Survey to report to the students at the AMS Student Conference January 2008 New Orleans
Problem:
- Many potential graduate students know little about what it takes to go to graduate school
- Many advisors know little about graduate admissions considerations outside their own institution

Objective:
- Collect basic, comparative information about graduate admissions in the atmospheric sciences and distribute it broadly to students and institutions
How many applicants per year? How many are admitted? How many accept admission?

How many are offered full or partial support?

What are incoming students’ typical GRE scores? What’s a really good score?

What academic background do students need?

What student-related factors most strongly affect your admission and financial support decisions?
Surveys completed by Nov. 15, coming to you soon …
Results distributed to member institutions, presented at AMS Student Conference in New Orleans, and published in an article in BAMS

For more information, contact John Nielsen-Gammon, pollster
– Dept. of Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M
– Member, AMS Board on Higher Education
– 979-862-2248; n-g@tamu.edu

Survey link:
– http://www.ametsoc.org/gradschoolsurvey.html
University Relations Committee

Finally, we need your feedback -

Reverse Open House to present University science at the Fall Members Meeting to promote collaborative research.
University Relations Committee

Kerry Cook, Cornell, Chair
Rafael Bras, MIT
Clara Deser, NCAR
Gordon Farquharson, NCAR
Vanda Grubisic, DRI
Eve Gruntfest, U. Colorado
Jim Hansen, NRL
Michael Morgan, U. Wisconsin
Richard Orville, Texas A&M

Alan Robock, Rutgers
Wendy Schreiber-Abshire, UOP
Lisa White, San Francisco State
S.T. Wu, U. Alabama
Sepi Yalda, Millersville
Len Pietrafesa, NCSU, Trustee
John Merrill, URI
Joyce Penner, U. Michigan