

UCAR
University Relations Committee
10-11 April 2007
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, California

NOTES

The University Relations Committee (URC) convened its spring meeting, hosted by URC member Jim Hansen (NRL) on the campus of the Naval Postgraduate School.

URC Members present at the meeting:

Kerry Cook, Cornell University, Chairwoman
Wendy Abshire, UCAR/COMET
Clara Desser, NCAR/ESSL
Gordon Farquharson, NCAR
Eve Gruntfest, University of Colorado- Colorado Springs
Vanda Grubisic, Desert Research Institute
Jim Hansen, Naval Research Lab
John Merrill, University of Rhode Island
Michael Morgan, University of Wisconsin- Madison
Dick Orville, Texas A&M University
Joyce Penner, University of Michigan
Len Pietrafesa, North Carolina State University
Alan Robock, Rutgers University
Lisa White, San Francisco State University
ST Wu, University of Alabama- Huntsville
Sepi Yalda, Millersville University

NCAR/UCAR/UOP attendees:

Rick Anthes, President, UCAR
Rana Brasher-Alleva, Director, Budget and Planning NCAR
Jack Fellows, Vice President, UCAR Corporate Affairs, Director of UOP
Susan Friberg, Governance Liaison, UCAR
Aneka Finley, Administrative Assistant, UCAR
Maura Hagen, Director, ASP/NCAR
Tim Killeen, Director of NCAR
Valerie Koch, Budget Analyst, NCAR
Hanne Mauriello, Manager of Budget & Administration, UOP
Larry Winter, Deputy Director of NCAR

1. Approval of the Agenda

URC Chairwoman, Kerry Cook, asked for approval of the agenda. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the agenda as presented.

2. Welcome to the Committee

UCAR President, Rick Anthes welcomed the Committee and thanked them for their attendance.

Jack Fellows reported that URC member Michael Morgan has just been selected the new AMS/UCAR Congressional Fellow spending the next year with Congress in Washington D.C.

3. Approval of the October 2006 Meeting Notes.

Chairwoman Cook asked for approval of the notes from the October 2006 URC meeting. After making a few changes regarding attendees, it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes.

4. Faculty Fellowship Program

Maura Hagan, Director of the Advanced Study Program (ASP) at NCAR, presented an overview of the program, and reported on the current round of applications for support from the Faculty Fellowship Program (FFP). The FFP funds university faculty visits for 3-12 months at NCAR; faculty members can also bring students with them to Boulder if budget allows. Eighteen awards have been made thus far, and there are 13 new applications for FY08 and one for FY09 covering a broad range of research topics.

Hagan also discussed the NCAR Graduate Fellowship (NGF) and the Graduate Visitor Program (GVP) in the context of best use of limited NCAR resources. Hagan is proposing to phase out the NGF in favor of the GVP so that a larger number of visitors can be supported at NCAR. The URC concurred.

She also sought advice on creating a distinguished scientist program at NCAR to broaden and deepen existing expertise, and to support the study of emerging science topics. While there is no funding as yet for such a program, Hagan asked the URC to think about whether such a program might be of value, and whether there is a role for the URC in nomination and evaluation of candidates.

5. URC Proposal Subcommittee Report

Michael Morgan, chair of the non-core proposal review subcommittee, reported that the committee reviewed 15 proposals randomly selected from NCAR and UOP submissions from July through December 2006. Morgan reported that the proposals in this round were clearer in defining the roles of the universities in the proposed projects, in describing the nature of the science projects being proposed, and had stronger inclusion of graduate students. The subcommittee had a question about why NCAR senior scientists ask for non-core funds if their salaries are already paid by NCAR. Larry Winter responded by saying that the senior

scientist salaries are only partially funded from the NCAR base. The subcommittee also reported that they would like to see still more student involvement in proposed projects.

Discussion followed on the proposed new non-core proposal criteria and procedures. The subcommittee recommended that they be adopted by the URC, but asked for a change in timing of the draft and final reports—they would like to submit a draft report on the proposal review to NCAR four weeks prior to the meeting and submit the final report at the URC meeting. The final report would include questions and answers from the subcommittee and NCAR and UOP. In order to analyze trends, Chairwomen Cook suggested that NCAR track the number of proposals in the four new categories: 1) joint with universities; 2) Collaborative with funding to or from university partner; 3) Collaborative with no funding to or from university partner; and 4) no university collaboration.). Clara Deser suggested that the URC hold an informational meeting with the NCAR scientists. Anthes suggested that the two groups meet during the week of the UCAR October Meetings. It was then moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the revised proposal criteria and review procedures.

6. NCAR Update

NCAR Director, Tim Killeen reported on the high value NCAR and NSF places on the 800 scientific visitors annually and updated the committee on the success of the NCAR re-organization. Killeen reported that he has created an NCAR Executive Committee that meets bi-weekly and consists of the heads of the five labs, and other directorate staff, thereby increasing communication and coordination across the NCAR program. He reported the NCAR has the largest institutional group participating in IPCC Working Groups I & II. He also reported that talks between NCAR, the University of Colorado, the University of Wyoming, and NSF continue to work out the details on the proposed supercomputing center to be located north of Fort Collins, CO in southern Wyoming.

7. UOP Update

UOP Director Jack Fellows reported that the UOP's strategic plan had been approved by the Board of Trustees. Fellows also reported on the various UOP programs: that the COSMIC satellite program has been successfully receiving data since December; COMET has translated most of its modules into Spanish; and that the GLOBE program will go through a review in May to evaluate the four year old program, and will be helping NASA and NSF develop a new outreach programs. NSDL will have a new cooperative agreement in the fall; and NSF has terminated the funding for DLESE, thus UOP is currently looking for a host for the digital library. Fellows also reported that Unidata will be revisiting its strategic plan in the next few months.

8. UCAR Update

UCAR President Rick Anthes reported on the completion and publication of the new UCAR Strategic Plan, on the status of the competition for the management of NCAR, and the UCAR preliminary proposal to be submitted on 11 April. He said that he is fairly confident that UCAR will be invited to submit a full proposal, and that that document will be due to NSF on 31 August. Anthes also reported on his recent very interesting trip, at the behest of Oswaldo Garcia at San Francisco State University, to the Cuban Meteorological Society in Havana.

9. Planning for the October Members' Meeting

Jack Fellows led the discussion about planning the 2007 October meetings. Suggestions from the group included continuing to invite early career faculty and holding a “reverse” open house so the Members Representatives can have an opportunity to talk about their own research. The following break out sessions of cross-cutting topics were suggested:

- Planning a diversity summit.
- Education—advancing/modernizing Earth Science Education
- Earth system models—how to use them most effectively.
- Observing systems
- Societal impacts
- policy, politics and science workshop

Other topics mentioned included: innovation, tech transfer, recruiting and supporting grad students, current state of science funding, pursuing inter-disciplinary sciences, intellectual property.

The committee also decided to change the schedule of the URC meeting during the October meetings. The committee will now meet on Thursday morning during the years when the AMS/UCAR Heads and Chairs are not scheduled to meet; and will meet on Wednesday afternoon when there is a Heads and Chairs meeting planned. The idea was also discussed of hosting an NCAR day at the Annual UCAR meeting, or at the AMS meeting to provide more visibility for NCAR.

10. Enhancing the role of the URC in the future

The committee had a discussion about the current role of the URC and the Committee's original charge. The members of the Committee discussed changing the wording of the charge and decided to change the word “maintain” to “strengthen” in the first sentence: *The University Relations Committee (URC) helps maintain good communication and relationships between the Corporation and members.*

There was discussion on how to increase awareness within the community about the URC, and it was suggested that the chair write an article to go into the UCAR Quarterly newsletter. Lisa White and Jim Hansen volunteered to look into the benefits of creating a role for community colleges within UCAR; they will report

their findings and make a recommendation at the October meeting. The committee also talked about changing the name of the URC. It was agreed that name *University Relations Committee* does not accurately reflect the current purpose and responsibilities of the committee, and that the name implies there is a problem with the relationship between UCAR and the universities. Several new names were suggested, and the committee agreed on *UCAR President's Advisory Committee* (UPAC). A motion was made by Alan Robock to change the name from the University Relations Committee to the UCAR President's Advisory Committee. S. T. Wu seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

11. Naval Postgraduate School & Naval Research laboratory Presentations

The committee saw presentations on current projects from the Meteorology Department and the Department of Oceanography at the Naval Postgraduate School, and the Marine and Meteorology department at the Naval Research lab. Research students in the meteorology and oceanography departments from the NPS also gave presentations on their current research projects.

12. Unstructured discussion

Chairwomen Cook suggested that the Proposal Review Sub-committee could use another person on the committee. She nominated Vanda Grubisic who accepted the nomination; the sub-committee agreed.

There was discussion about creating a website where presentations from the URC meetings along with any other presentations that members of the committee feels would be of interest to the group could be posted. The UCAR Governance Office will talk with the UCAR communications office and report back.

End of Minutes