The University of Alabama in Huntsville

University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) has been a UCAR member since 1992 and includes both an Atmospheric Science Department (ATS) as well as a Program of Studies and Research in Upper Atmospheric Physics (via the joint Center for Space Plasma and Aeronomic Research or CSPAR). ATS currently offers M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in atmospheric science and has close ties with the Earth System Science Center (ESSC). A new undergraduate ATS program in Earth System Science has been recently approved and will begin during Fall 2008. The undergraduate program will consist of a technically rigorous physical science program with specialty foci that include atmospheric science, atmospheric chemistry, remote sensing, hydrology, Earth science secondary education, and human dimensions and societal impacts. The undergraduate atmospheric science specialty focus includes plans of study that satisfy Federal Civil Service requirements for meteorologists. The ATS graduate program enrolls approximately 50 students and has a strong emphasis on remote sensing and earth system science. The Program of Studies and Research in Upper Atmospheric Physics offers teaching programs in (a) ionospheric and magnetospheric physics and (b) space environments (space weather). CSPAR typically supports 5 undergraduate students and 15-30 graduate students and produces 5-15 MS/PhD degrees annually.

ATS currently consists of approximately 8 academic faculty, 12 adjunct faculty, and 55 research staff members while CSPAR encompasses around 25 academic faculty and research staff members. One new faculty member will be added to ATS in 2008 and two additional positions have been requested. ESSC provides a wide array of state-of-the-art infrastructure for the research projects of ATS faculty, students and research scientists. ATS resides in Robert C. "Bud" Cramer Hall, which houses scientists from UAH, NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center, Universities Space Research Association and the local NOAA/NWS Weather Service Forecast Office. This diverse mix of faculty, students, research scientists and operational weather forecasters provides an outstanding environment for exposing students to a variety of atmospheric science career opportunities. The ATS scientific research program is very active and productive with numerous peer-reviewed publications and 8.5 million dollars in external funding awarded during 2007. CSPAR is similarly active with 3.5 million in external funding over the same time period. ATS and CSPAR faculty are active participants in UCAR governance, collaborative research, and programs and facilities.

The UCAR Membership Committee concludes that the membership criteria are fulfilled, and recommends to the Members’ Representatives that the membership of University of Alabama in Huntsville be continued as provided by the bylaws.