Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) has been a member of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research since 1973. WHOI offers a fully integrated program of studies leading to the Ph.D. in five research departments related to atmospheric sciences (Applied Ocean Physics and Engineering, Biology, Geology and Geophysics, Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry, Physical Oceanography). Numerous graduate level courses are offered in all of these departments. In 2005-6 twenty eight masters and PhD degrees were awarded as part of the institution’s joint program with MIT (another UCAR member). As of Fall 2006, the joint program has awarded 754 degrees, and new student admissions were at 31 in 2006. Thirteen post-doctoral associates are supported by the institution. Also, Woods Hole runs a summer school in geophysical fluid dynamics, which is in its 50th year. This program is open to graduate students from all over the world, and is designed to provide lectures and guidance on independent research over a 10-12 week period.

WHOI also includes the Marine Policy Center and the following five institutes: Coastal Ocean Institute, Deep Ocean Exploration Institute, Ocean and Climate Change Institute, Ocean Life Institute, and the Cooperative Institute for Climate and Ocean Research. WHOI collaborates with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on joint programs in Oceanography and Applied Ocean Science and Engineering.

The overarching theme at WHOI is studying the ocean-atmosphere system that drives the earth’s climate. Efforts related to atmospheric science are distributed throughout the departments and institutes. Faculty at WHOI regularly obtain research grants and produce a significant number of scholarly works, as evidenced by publications listed in the renewal material. Seven faculty have been especially active in their interactions with UCAR, including participation on governance committees and NCAR CCSM steering committees, in addition to collaborative research with NCAR scientists.

New efforts at research and education at WHOI include establishing the Cooperative Institute for Climate and Ocean Research and the Ocean Climate Change Institute, which includes internally-funded arctic research. WHOI also plays a central role in the upcoming Ocean Observing Initiative and the Integrated Ocean Observing System.

The UCAR Membership Committee concludes that the membership criteria are fulfilled, and recommends to the Members' Representatives that the membership of WHOI be continued as provided by the bylaws.