Texas A&M University

UCAR Membership Renewal Review – 2010

Texas A&M University was a founding member of UCAR in 1959. The College of Geosciences hosts two departments, Atmospheric Sciences and Oceanography, whose primary focus is UCAR related fields. Two other departments, Geography and Geology & Geophysics, also have relevant interests in Hydrology and Climate Science. The Atmospheric Sciences Department offers B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees while the Oceanography Department offers an undergraduate minor, M.S., and Ph.D. degrees. The undergraduate enrollment in Atmospheric Sciences is approximately 150 students with 141 B.S. degrees granted in the last 5 years. Graduate enrollment is 50 students in Atmospheric Science and 84 in Oceanography. Both departments have graduated 24 Ph.D. students in the last 5 years. Graduate research in the Atmospheric Sciences spans the UCAR fields from Climate science to Physical Meteorology and Atmospheric Dynamics while that in Oceanography includes climate-related studies in Marine Chemistry, Marine Biology, and Physical Oceanography.

The Atmospheric Science faculty has 19 members while Oceanography has 30, many in UCAR relevant fields. No trend was reported in either department. Both departments have two student computer laboratories while Atmospheric Sciences maintains a broadcast studio and weather center. The Atmospheric Sciences Department also operates two Doppler weather radars including the SMART-R mobile system. Computational needs are served by the University’s Supercomputing Center. The Atmospheric Science Department also hosts the Office of the State Climatologist.

The faculties of both departments have highly productive research programs with Atmospheric Sciences publishing approximately 50 journal articles per year and Oceanography 80 articles. These research programs are supported by external funding from state and federal agencies including NSF, NASA, NOAA, DOE, FAA, EPA, MMS, TGLO, and TCEQ. The faculties of both departments are active participants in UCAR governance, collaborative research, and programs. Atmospheric Sciences has made its strongest contribution through collaborations with NCAR scientists while Oceanography has been contributed strongly to UCAR governance.

The UCAR Membership Committee concludes that membership criteria are fulfilled, and recommends to the Members’ Representatives that the membership of Texas A&M University be continued as provided by the bylaws.