University of Washington

UCAR Membership Renewal Review – 2010

The University of Washington (UW) program in the Atmospheric Sciences has continued its tradition of being superb. The UW was one of the founding members of UCAR in 1959, and helped shape the original governance of UCAR, as well as in designing NCAR. UW representatives have continued to contribute to UCAR via the Board of Trustees and various UCAR committees; for example, they have had representation on 16 UCAR boards and committees and 9 programmatic collaborations in the past decade alone. UW educational and research programs in the atmospheric and related sciences and technology are among the few institutions in the very top tier in the United States. With an undergraduate and graduate education and research program that has produced 66 BS, 39 MS and 34 PhD degrees in the past 5 years, the UW program is producing the highest quality future scientists at an astounding rate. That rate will not abate as there are 44 undergraduates and 63 graduate students in the program presently. And, 1500 non-majors take course in the atmospheric sciences to broaden their educations and to fulfill GER requirements; a strong plus for the program. Traditionally, UW atmospheric sciences faculty and students have interacted and collaborated with faculty and students in up to ten other units at the UW. With the new College of the Environment being formed and with the atmospheric sciences becoming a core component of that college, the opportunities for cross cutting research that will lead to the establishment of new knowledge; extending from foundational science to science and technology that melds with the social and economic sciences. Moreover it is possible that more non-majors will enroll in atmospheric sciences courses; including the social, economic and political sciences. In fact, UW atmospheric sciences faculty are well known for having created society serving programs in concert with local and regional state and federal agencies. The instructional program has been and remains superb, the research program is amongst the best in the US and the outreach programs are emerging to become national models.

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