Washington State University

UCAR Membership Renewal Review – 2010

Washington State University (WSU) had been a member of UCAR since 1986. WSU’s research and education program in the atmospheric and related sciences is highly successful and visionary, which bodes well for its future productivity. The program as presently constituted is unique, especially with regard to connecting science and technology to relevant present and future societal needs. The participating faculties are solid and well grounded in core disciplines, spread across nine university units. There is a well-conceived plan for future faculty hires.

Graduate student enrollment is high with 14 students having graduated since 2002 and 25 in the program presently. Facilities are adequate to meet the needs of undergraduate and graduate instruction and research. There is good interaction between WSU faculty and students with other UCAR institutions and NCAR scientific staff; WSU faculty and students take advantage of NCAR facilities. The Center for Environmental Research, Education & Outreach is visionary and crosses the boundaries between air, water and soil studies. The NSF IGERT grant in support of Nitrogen Systems: Policy-oriented Integrated Research & Education is laudable and is truly inspired and again addresses a societal relevant issue. Likewise, the PhD in Atmospheric Policy Trajectory is very well conceived and could well become a national model for science and technology (S&T) programs in-kind. This is the kind of program that will engender the next generation of scientists and engineers with the knowledge base that they will need to anticipate and address future S&T challenges that society will face. WSU’s program is a model for a cross-cutting socially relevant research and education, university-based program.

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