The University of Colorado at Boulder (CU) has been a UCAR member since 1964. The Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences (ATOC) was founded in 2005 from the predecessor Program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences (PAOS), which was derived from the Department of Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences. ATOC is an interdisciplinary department that examines the dynamical, physical, and chemical processes occurring in the atmosphere and ocean. ATOC has been ranked within the top 10 academic departments nationally in both the atmospheric and oceanic sciences (Chronicle of Higher Education, 2007). The academic program of ATOC links to various academic programs within the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Engineering and Applied Science at CU, and to three research institutes affiliated with CU: the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, and the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics.

ATOC offers M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in atmospheric and oceanic sciences; although ATOC does not offer an undergraduate bachelor’s degree, it does offer an undergraduate minor for students pursuing a bachelor’s degree in another academic department. The graduate student enrollment is approximately 70, and between 2006 and 2010 CU, through ATOC and PAOS, awarded 59 graduate degrees in atmospheric and oceanic sciences. (Prior to 2008, graduate degrees in atmospheric and oceanic sciences were awarded by PAOS.)

ATOC comprises 15 core faculty members, and the total number of faculty at CU with interests in the atmospheric sciences and related fields exceeds 50. There are six primary research areas that are addressed by ATOC faculty: atmospheric chemistry, climate modeling and data assimilation, dynamics of the atmosphere and oceans, instrument development and observations, oceanography, and radiative transfer and remote sensing. Within these areas, graduate students, research staff, and faculty work together on a wide range of research topics: large-scale dynamics of the ocean and the atmosphere, air–sea interaction, radiative transfer and remote sensing of the ocean and the atmosphere, sea ice and its role in climate, cloud–climate interactions, atmospheric chemistry and aerosols, atmospheric technology, extended weather and climate prediction, hydrological processes, boundary-layer measurement and modeling, and planetary atmospheres. ATOC has extensive computer facilities and laboratories in remote sensing, chemistry, and hydrodynamics.

CU, through prior and continuing activities of its faculty in the atmospheric sciences and related fields, affirms its longstanding commitment to participation in UCAR governance and collaboration in NCAR research. The former has included membership on and leadership of the UCAR Board of Trustees; the latter comprises collaboration with NCAR scientists on research in the broad fields of atmospheric, climate, solar, and computational sciences, and participation in advanced study and faculty fellowship programs and in field campaigns and facility deployments. In the renewal application, it is reported that collaborations between CU and UCAR personnel have yielded 21 subcontracts issued to UCAR by CU and 71 subcontracts received by CU from UCAR between 2001 and 2010.
The UCAR Membership Committee concludes that the membership criteria are fulfilled, and recommends to the Members’ Representatives that the membership of the University of Colorado at Boulder be continued as provided by the bylaws.