The University of Minnesota has been a UCAR Member since 1965. The atmospheric science program at the University of Minnesota is highly interdisciplinary, with contributing faculty from the departments of Civil Engineering; Earth Sciences; Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior; Geography; Mechanical Engineering; and Soil, Water, and Climate. Activities are coordinated by the university-wide Institute on the Environment.

Research and education programs related to NCAR span a very wide range of areas, including hydrology, limnology, geomagnetism, micrometeorology and atmospheric boundary layer processes, the carbon cycle, aerosols, atmospheric chemistry and air pollution, climatology, and climate change impacts. Research funding in these areas comes from NSF, NASA, DOE, USDA, EPA, NPS, and the University of Minnesota. Research results are published in leading earth and atmospheric science journals, including Atmospheric Environment, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, Climate Dynamics, Bulletin of the AMS, GRL, JAMC, and JGR.

The university has awarded 33 M.S. and 33 Ph.D. degrees on topics related to the atmospheric sciences since 2008. The renewal application is not very specific about the degree programs in areas related to the atmospheric sciences, but that is likely a consequence of the university structure, in which atmospheric research and education is diffused through a variety of different departments, schools, and colleges.

In recent years University of Minnesota faculty have participated in UCAR governance (Board of Trustees) and various workshops. Individual faculty members have active collaborations with NCAR scientists, primarily in the areas of aerosol science, biogeochemistry, and climate.

The application shows that Minnesota has productive, funded, research activities in atmospheric science; there are multiple departments that are training graduate students in the atmospheric or related sciences; and they participate in UCAR governance and research programs.

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