University of Oklahoma

The University of Oklahoma (OU) has been a UCAR member since 1966. OU continues its commitment to a full, integrated, and coherent program of education and research in the atmospheric sciences. They have allocated tremendous resources towards this program through construction of a new building that allows easy collaboration with agencies and national laboratories including the Storm Prediction Center, the National Severe Storms Laboratory, and the National Weather Service, which are collocated in the building. Their School of Meteorology has 22 FTE tenured faculty and 2 FTE tenure-track faculty plus a variety of other positions (40 FTE) involved in education and research. They have a very strong undergraduate program and 91 graduate students as of spring 2012. Over the last five years they awarded 223 B.S., 84 M.S. and 22 Ph.D. degrees in meteorology. The department has several endowed professorships.

Progress in atmospheric sciences
The department is well known for its research in radar, boundary layer, and tropical meteorology as well as cloud physics and regional climate studies. They have the necessary equipment and state-of-the-art facilities for these studies. Some of their instruments are unique. Their research is supported from external funds by nearly $2M on average per year. The results of their research are documented in many peer-reviewed papers. Their faculty and students participated in various field campaigns, such as VORTEX, CASA and THORPEX, and monitoring programs like ARM, just to mention a few. They were recently awarded the South Central Climate Science Center by the US Department of Interior. This will lead to new positions in the future. They also will get new radar and complementary equipment and labs.

Participation in UCAR activities
Their faculty has a long history of participation in UCAR governance and activities and collaborating with NCAR scientists as is documented by peer-reviewed publications. Faculty members currently serve on the UCAR Membership Committee and the Board of Trustees, and they have active research collaborations with NCAR scientists in a number of areas. The application shows that the University of Oklahoma has an active research program in atmospheric science. They have a productive graduate education and training program, and they participate in UCAR governance and research.

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 Oklahoma be continued as provided by the bylaws.