Arizona State University – Report to UCAR Membership Committee on Renewal Application

Arizona State University has been a UCAR member since 2000. Six separate academic groups are involved: (i) Climate Science in the School of Geographic Sciences (five faculty); (ii) Environmental Fluid Dynamics in Fulton School of Engineering (five faculty plus one Visiting Professor); (iii) Remote Sensing in the School of Earth and Space Exploration (one faculty); (iv) Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Characterization in the Department of Biochemistry (two faculty); (v) Atmospheric Chemistry and Urban Air Quality in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry (2.5 faculty); and (vi) Boundary Layer Dynamics and Urban Air Quality (1.5 faculty). In summary, 17 faculty are identified as teaching and doing research in the atmospheric sciences. Arizona State University considers its cross-department, cross-discipline approach to be a great strength.

In the primary School of Geographic Sciences, the climate science program has 14 Ph.D. students and nine M.A. students, and 11 Ph.D. students have graduated in the past five years. They do offer undergraduate weather and climate courses to prepare students to work for the National Weather Service. They also administer an Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Atmospheric Sciences across the entire campus, with an annual enrollment of about five students.

The next largest program in Environmental Fluid Dynamics has awarded 20 M.S. or M.S.E. degrees and 7 PhD degrees in the past five years. Even though the Remote Sensing program lists only one faculty member, 7 Ph.D. and 5 M.S. students have graduated in the past five years. The two faculty members in the Atmospheric Chemistry and Urban Air Quality program are new and have not had any students graduate yet. Six Ph.D. students and one M.S. student are enrolled in the Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Characterization. Finally, the new (2007) program in the School of Sustainability has 4 M.A. students and 19 Ph.D. students.

Various faculty members are active participants with UCAR, especially in field experiment studies with EOL. One of the new faculty members participated in the 2007 NCAR Faculty Fellowship Program and this had led to collaborative research with NCAR-RAL, including extended stays at NCAR.

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