The Florida State University (FSU) was a founding member of UCAR in 1959. Participation in UCAR is primarily via the Department of Meteorology with 17 faculty members, but with substantial participation by the Department of Oceanography with 15 faculty members, the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Institute (GFDI) with 22 Faculty Associates, the Center for Ocean Atmosphere Prediction Studies (COAPS) with six faculty members. Although there are dual appointments in the GFDI and COAPS, the total of 60 faculty members listed above represents a substantial commitment to advancing atmospheric and oceanographic education and research. These faculty are mentors for approximately 220 undergraduate, 135 graduate students, and 50 research staff members. Whereas the Meteorology Department offers degrees at the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. levels, the Oceanography Department only offers M.S. and Ph.D. degrees, and the GFDI offers only the Ph.D. degree. Over the past five years, the Meteorology Department has awarded 158 B.S., 76 M.S., and 22 Ph.D. degrees, the Oceanography Department has awarded 22 M.S. and 22 Ph.D. degrees, and the GFDI has awarded five Ph.D. degrees.

From its establishment in 1948, the Meteorology Department has been strong in dynamics and synoptic meteorology, and especially tropical meteorology. Through the 1980s and the 1990s the Department added expertise in remote sensing, climate, and climate dynamics. With several retirements since 2000, new faculty have been added to continue teaching and research in tropical meteorology, satellite remote sensing, and climate dynamics. In addition, the Department has a training program for TV meteorologists and is involved with K-12 meteorological education at both the state and national levels.

The Oceanography Department focuses on graduate-level education and research. Included on the faculty are two American Meteorological Society Fellows, two Royal Meteorological Society Fellows, two American Association for Advancement of Science Fellows, and a Fellow of the American Physical Society. Three of the faculty are Distinguished Research Professors, eight are Named Professors, and there is also an Eppes Professor, and a Lawton Professor. In addition to coordinated courses with Meteorology, the Oceanography Department has connections to the Chemistry, Biology, and Geology Departments, as well as with GFDI and COAPS.

The 20 GFDI “Faculty Associates” are all tenured or tenure-earning members of other Departments. Two current major thrusts are in the areas of multiphase modeling and the environment of Karst regions. The GFDI offers an interdisciplinary Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Ph. D. program that emphasizes fundamentals of mathematics, physics, and fluid dynamics.

The Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies (COAPS) performs research in air-sea interaction, ocean and coupled air-sea modeling, climate prediction,
and statistics. It hosts a NOAA Applied Research Center, the Florida Climate Center, a Research Vessel Data Center, and the Shipboard Automated Meteorological and Oceanographic System initiative.

The FSU Pathways of Excellence has awarded the Meteorology (lead department), Oceanography, Geological Sciences, COAPS, and GFDT an initiative to hire six new faculty over the next four years. This Extreme Events in Climate Cluster will emphasize extreme atmospheric and oceanographic phenomena and their links to past, current, and future climates. Two assistant professors have been hired and a search is in progress for the remaining hires.

FSU faculty have been active in UCAR activities such as the President’s Advisory Committee on University Relations, Scientific Computing Division Advisory Board, Members Nominating Committee, UCAR Membership Committee, Unidata Users Committee, and COMET. Professor Fuelberg has collaborated with NCAR personnel on various field programs, and Professor Zhou is an NCAR Affiliate Scientist.

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