Johns Hopkins University

UCAR Membership Report on 2009 Membership Renewal

Johns Hopkins University (JHU) was a founding member of UCAR in 1959. Activities related to atmospheric science are ongoing in four different schools: The Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, the Whiting School of Engineering, the Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Advanced Physics Lab (APL). Each has several departments related to UCAR interests, and those departments offer undergraduate, masters and doctoral degrees.

Both basic and applied research on atmospheric science and related sciences are carried out at JHU. There are faculty members in the school of arts and sciences who are active in basic research in both Earth and planetary sciences. The engineering school has an emphasis on the application of atmospheric science, and ongoing research areas there are coastal oceanography, air-sea interaction, micro-meteorology and land-atmosphere interactions. The school of public health has several departments that support research in UCAR-related areas. These include Biostatistics, Environmental Health Science and Epidemiology where there is research on such topics as climate and hydrological modeling, El Niño predictions, GIS and satellite remote sensing to study vector- and water-borne diseases, and the health effects of air pollution. The APL has been involved in atmospheric research through numerous programs and in particular through its role in the building of numerous spacecraft and instruments. The Provost has begun a number of new initiatives in atmosphere-related activities including: a global water initiative, a space sciences institute, and the institute for data intensive engineering and science. There is also a proposal for the formation of a university-wide institute on climate change, health and sustainability.

JHU offers many degrees (BA, MA, MS, MSE, MHS, and PhD) in three schools in atmosphere and related science with over 100 students currently enrolled. The department of Earth and Planetary Science has a new multi-disciplinary undergraduate major and minor in ‘Global and Environmental Changes and Sustainability.’

Faculty members at JHU have been and continue to be very active in UCAR/NCAR activities. This includes collaboration with NCAR and UCAR scientists, use of NCAR’s computing facilities, participation in UCAR meetings, and involvement in the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrological Sciences which has joint activities with UCAR. We note in particular that JHU was home to both a founder of UCAR (George Benton) and to a past president of UCAR (Francis Bretherton).

The UCAR Membership Committee concludes that the membership criteria are fulfilled, and recommends to the Members' Representatives that the membership of John Hopkins University be continued as provided by the UCAR bylaws.