UCAR President’s Advisory Committee of University Relations (PACUR)

Tuesday 19 April 2011
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL

DRAFT NOTES

The following people were present for all or a portion of the meeting.

PACUR Members
Greg Hakim, University of Washington, Chair
Wendy Abshire, UCP
Rich Clark, Millersville University
Bob Hart, Florida State University
Bob Rauber, University of Illinois
Yvette Richardson, Pennsylvania State
Alan Robock, Rutgers University
Jeff Trapp, Purdue University
Geoff Vallis, Princeton University

UCAR, NCAR UCP
Rick Anthes, UCAR President
Rana Brasher – Alleva, NCAR Budget & Planning
Jack Fellows, UCAR Vice President of Corporate Affairs & Director UCP
Aneka Finley, UCAR Governance Office
Susan Friberg, UCAR Governance Office
Maura Hagan, NCAR Deputy Director
Valerie Koch, NCAR Budget & Planning
Roger Wakimoto, NCAR Director

National Science Foundation
Bernard Grant, Assistant Program Coordinator, NSF

Florida State University
Lynn Dudley, Chair of the Meteorology, Geology and Oceanography Department
Bob Ellingson, Professor of Meteorology
Ross Ellington, Professor Biological Science

1. PACUR Chair, Greg Hakim called the meeting to order and welcomed Lynn Dudley, the Chair of the Meteorology, Geology and Oceanography Department at Florida State University and Bob Ellingson, UCAR member representative from FSU, who welcomed the committee and gave a brief overview of the history of the Meteorology Department.

2. Rick Anthes, UCAR President, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and read the PACUR charge, highlighting the importance of the Non-core Proposal Review Sub-committee’s work.

3. PACUR Chair, Greg Hakim presented the meeting notes from the October 2010 PACUR meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the meeting notes without change.
4. Rick Anthes, UCAR President, gave an update on UCAR activities since last October. Anthes announced that he will be stepping down as UCAR President the end of December, and will begin a phased retirement over the next three years. Anthes then presented a breakdown of allocations of effort at UCAR from 2004 to 2010. He pointed out that 25% is Research and Development; 55% is community facilities; 10% community support; 10% is allocated to Education and Outreach. He also talked about the two biggest challenges for the coming year which include the ongoing budget issues for science and education in the U.S. and the NSF reviews of NCAR and UCAR that are leading up to the renewal process of the UCAR/NSF Cooperative agreement. Anthes reported that the reviews of NCAR had already begun; the UCAR Management review would take place in October; and that the UCAR Scientific Programs Evaluation Committee (SPEC) is going to do a mid-course assessment of the NCAR strategic plan in August.

5. Roger Wakimoto, NCAR Director, gave an update of recent activities. Wakimoto gave an overview of the PREDICT project. He also reported that the Wyoming Supercomputing Center is ahead of schedule and is moving ahead very well. On March 15th he held a town meeting at NCAR to inform staff of the projected budget for FY11, NCAR’s priorities and announced budget actions that resulted in the elimination of 16 positions.

6. Jack Fellows, UCAR Vice President of Corporate Affairs and the Director of UCP gave an update on a few recent activities within UCP. Among other UCP activities, Fellows reported on some of the new modules recently release in COMET and he gave a brief description of a project COMET is working on with the University of Wisconsin to develop a web-based training course on coastal climate science. The VSP Postdoctoral Fellowship continues this year, and for the first time, 50% of the applicants are women; in FY11 it is anticipated that 20 new appointments will be made. Fellows also announced that in January 2011 Ed Geary, the director of GLOBE will be stepping down and the search for a new director is underway.

7. Bernard Grant, Assistant Program Coordinator for the National Science Foundation Division of Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences, gave the NSF update. Grant reviewed the Directorate for Geosciences mission to support of research in atmospheric, earth and ocean sciences and to address the nation’s need to understand, predict and respond to environmental events and changes. Grant talked about the budget outlook for FY2012 and reviewed the ten-year funding history for GEO which showed five years of flat funding. He also talked about the major investments GEO will be making in 2012 which included continuing support of basic research, developing and maintain world class research infrastructure, the Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability SEES project, Cyberinfrastrucutre and creating a more disaster resilient America (CaMRA). Grant also confirmed the commitment to funding the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center.

8. Rick Anthes and Greg Hakim lead a discussion about the future of the PACUR Spring Meeting. The committee discussed how often the committee needed to meet and if they needed to go to a university for a meeting. The comments from the discussion included:
- Re-arranging teaching schedules to attend this meeting is challenging
- If we are going to continue to have the meeting at a university we should really visit the university and not just use a meeting room
- PACUR could visit new member(s)
- PACUR could meet at AMS or AGU meetings
After the discussion, it was decided that unless the committee had a topic that really needed to be discussed in person, the Spring PACUR meeting would be held via web conference or video conference.

9. Bob Hart, Chair of the Non-Core Proposals subcommittee presented the subcommittee report. For this cycle 61 proposals were submitted, 56 from NCAR and 5 from UCP. The committee selected proposals for review based on the level of collaboration and leverage thresholds with an emphasis on those proposals without collaboration. The committee examined 22 proposals and all showed collaboration and good student involvement. The subcommittee requested and received additional information on 12 proposals and there were no compliance issues. The subcommittee also pointed out two proposals that should be used in future committee orientations. There was discussion about some wording changes to be made in the Procedures & Criteria that included removing “After all issues are resolved” from line 9, additionally, the words “approved by PACUR” should be added to line 9 so it reads: “Once the report is approved by PACUR it is submitted to the UCAR President and to NSF”. The question was asked of Bernard Grant how NSF uses the committee reports and he said that NSF uses the reports to respond to any questions about how non-core proposals are managed. It was suggested that this explanation be added to the Procedures & Criteria. A motion was made to approve the sub-committee report; the motion was seconded and passed.

10. On behalf of the ASP Director Chris Davis, NCAR Deputy Director Maura Hagan gave the update on ASP. Hagan reported that the Faculty Fellowship program is expecting to have up to eight visitors coming to NCAR in FY11 and there are efforts to increase outbound visits but it’s challenging with tight budgets. The Graduate Visitor Program has seen an increase in visitors both short and long-term from 26 universities including ten foreign universities. The Postdoctoral Fellowship program is continuing to emphasize participation from scientists across NCAR in the selection process and balance the program in terms of demographics and science while keeping with the priorities of each division. Hagan reported that 11 postdoc fellowships had been offered this year.

11. Jack Fellows lead a discussion about plans for the 2011 Members’ Meeting. Fellows proposed that the meeting topic focus on issues surrounding developing the future Earth Sciences and Climate related workforce. Fellows said that he would like to invite Michael Crow, the President of ASU give the keynote address at the Members’ Meeting. He also reported on a proposal that has been submitted to NSF to create a National Climate Adaptation curriculum, which could be discussed at the Members’ Meeting. The group that submitted the proposal expects to know by summer if the $10M proposal will be funded. PACUR members agreed that inviting Michael Crow to give the keynote was a good idea.

12. Dr. Henry Fuelberg and Dr. Ian MacDonald from Florida State University introduced a few of their students who gave presentations to the PACUR on Lightening, the GRIP Field Campaign, the ARCTAS Field Campaign, and research being done on the 2010 Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The meeting adjourned at 5pm.

End of Meeting Notes