Central Michigan University
UCAR Membership Renewal Review

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Central Michigan University has been a UCAR member since 2007.

UCAR–related science at Central Michigan University lies within the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, which is located in the College of Science and Technology. The department offers a B.S. degree in Meteorology and focuses exclusively on undergraduate education and research. In his cover letter the university president, George Ross, expresses his intention to continue to invest in the department.

The department has offered the B.S. in Meteorology since Fall of 2006. The program meets both the National Weather Service and American Meteorological Society educational guidelines and is currently the only undergraduate meteorology degree available in Michigan. The department has ten full-time tenure-track faculty, four of whom have Ph.D.s in meteorology. There are also four temporary faculty, one of whom has a Ph.D. in meteorology. The department also offers B.A. and B.S. degrees in geology and is planning a new degree program in environmental science with three new faculty hires planned in that area. The program has awarded an average of 15 B.S. degrees per year in meteorology over the last five years. Facilities available include a computer teaching lab, a surface observing system, and a radiosonde system.

The application materials include short CVs for the four primary meteorology faculty members. All of the faculty members maintain research programs, generally involving undergraduate students, and most have published multiple papers within the last five years.

Several faculty members are active in UCAR governance and research activities, including the UNIDATA Users Committee and COMET. One person was a scientific visitor (sabbatical appointment 2010-11) in NCAR MMM. They also serve as UCAR Members Representatives.

Based on the information provided in the application materials, Central Michigan University meets the three primary requirements for membership in UCAR: a program of study and research, contributions to progress in the atmospheric sciences, and participation in UCAR activities. Therefore, the Membership Committee recommends that the UCAR membership of Central Michigan University be continued as provided by the bylaws.