UCAR Membership Committee Review of
McGill University
Kirk Maasch and Thomas Mote

McGill University has been a UCAR member since 1971. The primary UCAR-related research division at McGill University is the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. The renewal application packet reveals that McGill remains committed to its UCAR-related program of studies and research. Overall the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at McGill has 14 professors, 8 adjunct and associated faculty, 4 emeritus faculty, 6 research associates, 3 research assistants, 9 post docs, 27 undergraduate students, and 57 graduate students. The description of the work done at McGill that is provided in the renewal application shows that their research is interdisciplinary and covers a wide range of UCAR-related subjects. For the 2013-14 reporting period faculty in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences held over 60 grants and contracts totaling $2.3 million.

McGill University grants Bachelors, Diploma, Masters, and Doctorate degrees in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. For the period 2010-2014, 73 Bachelors degrees, 7 Diploma degrees, 34 Masters degrees and 17 PhD degrees were granted. The list of courses taught at McGill is wide ranging, and covers physical and chemical aspects of the atmosphere – ocean – earth system allowing students to get a well rounded, interdisciplinary education. The packet also provides a description of world-class institutions and research facilities at and proximal to McGill that are available to researchers as well as undergraduate and graduate students.

McGill has demonstrated continued commitment to progress in UCAR-related sciences. Research interests of faculty at McGill include atmospheric chemistry, climate and paleoclimate dynamics, cloud physics and physical meteorology, dynamic and synoptic meteorology, earth system modeling, extreme weather, geophysical fluid dynamics, physical and dynamical oceanography, and radar meteorology and remote sensing. For the five-year period from 2010 through 2014 McGill faculty have published over 240 referred journal articles.

The renewal application packet shows that McGill researchers and graduate students participate in the activities of UCAR. Examples provided are participation in UCAR meetings, use of NCAR models and computers, and collaborations with NCAR scientists.

In conclusion, it is the committee opinion that McGill University has fulfilled criteria in the three key areas and recommends renewal of membership in UCAR.