The College of Charleston has been a UCAR member since 1993. UCAR related activities are in the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences and the Department of Physics and Astronomy. The renewal materials included a brief statement and curriculum vitae from five key faculty members (Colgan, Larsen, Linder, Rumsey, Williams) in the two departments.

The first criterion for members is a program of study and research in the atmospheric and related sciences. The Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences has 14 tenure/tenure-track faculty and nine adjuncts. They have an active undergraduate program with 145 undergraduate students, graduating about 26/yr, and 15 graduate students in the Masters of Environmental Science program. The Department of Physics and Astronomy offers an undergraduate minor in Meteorology, including courses in Physics and Geology, such as Introduction to Meteorology, Atmospheric Physics, Synoptic Meteorology, Satellite Meteorology, Air Pollution Meteorology, Hydrogeology, Introduction to Remote Sensing, and Climate Change, among others. The department proposed a new major in Meteorology in January 2015, which will require the creation of six new courses, changes to five existing courses, and the deletion of three courses. The proposed major would meet the federal requirements for employment as a meteorologist and would be the only program of its kind in South Carolina.

The second criterion is progress in the atmospheric sciences as evidenced by scholarly works of significance by its faculty in the atmospheric sciences or related fields. In the broad area of Climate Change, Earth System Science, Natural Hazards, and Earth History, the renewal application points out that faculty have received $500K funding in the past five years from federal agencies and have published 30 journal articles. Recently published articles (since 2012) are in leading journals, including Advances in Meteorology, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, Atmospheric Pollution Research, Atmospheric Environment, Geophysical Research Letters, Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology, Journal of Atmospheric Sciences, Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres, Journal of Advances in Modeling of the Earth System, and Journal of Hydrology. They also participate in NASA Space Grant Consortium.

The final criterion is participation in UCAR activities. The final paragraph of the renewal application states that there has been little or no involvement with UCAR. However, an examination of the CVs does indicate participation in UCAR activities. For example, Prof. Linder had a UCAR COMET Partners Project during 2010-2012, and he has a long series of COMET projects supporting College of Charleston students. Prof. Larsen indicated that he has served as the UCAR representative (2011-2013), and Prof. Williams participated in an NCAR workshop.

In summary, it appears that the College of Charleston meets the three criteria, and we recommend renewal. The effort toward a new major is particularly noteworthy. We welcome and encourage additional engagement in UCAR activities. Also, we recommend that institutional representatives explicitly include the home department of the meteorology minor (or major) during preparation of the next renewal.