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

May 14, 2015
1201 New York Ave NW
Washington D.C.

Meeting Notes

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

PACUR Members
Yvette Richardson, Penn State University – Chair
Terri Adams, Howard University
Simona Bordoni, Caltech
John Braun, UCP
Dan Czizco, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Jennifer Griswold, University of Hawaii
Brian Mapes, University of Miami
Bob Rauber, University of Illinois
Jeff Trapp, University of Illinois
Mike Wiltberger, NCAR

UCAR, NCAR, UCP Attendees
Tom Bogdan, UCAR President
Rachael Drummond, UCAR Communications Director
Aneka Finley, UCAR Governance & University Relations
Stephanie Gillin, UCAR President’s Office Chief of Staff
Jim Hurrell, NCAR Director
Meg McClellan, UCAR General Council
Michael Thompson, NCAR Deputy Director

1. PACUR Chair Yvette Richardson called the meeting to order, thanked everyone for attending and said the PACUR was happy to have been invited to participate in the Board’s activities in Washington D.C. Yvette presented notes from the October 2014 PACUR meeting and asked for comments or corrections. The meeting notes were approved with no changes.

2. Tom Bogdan led a discussion about the visits to Capitol Hill the group made the day before and UCAR Weather Day on the Hill event. Regarding the Hill visits, everyone was pleasantly surprised by how friendly the staffers were especially from delegations that were expected to be a little less welcoming. It was a good opportunity to make a connection with the State delegations and extend the offer to serve as a resource to the staffers. There was also agreement that it was very nice to spend the time with the Trustees. Appreciation was also expressed for the team from UC Irvine that stepped in to volunteer to lead a group and help make appointments. The overall feeling about the Weather Day Event was positive, although some thought the university booths didn’t get much attention. Additional comments were that it was nice that it wasn’t just a UCAR event, but a community event with some of the Member universities that were there. There was agreement that it was great to have the students from UC Irvine. In the future it would be nice to include students.
3. Yvette led the discussion about the roles of the Member Reps to be discussed at the 2015 Members Meeting. The sub-committee working on this portion of the agenda would like the Members Reps to think about what they do as a Member Rep, who are they serving, and how are they serving both UCAR and their university. Mike and Dan reported they had met with Tom and had begun brainstorming for the Climate Change Impacts portion of the Members Meeting program. The plan is to start the session with a brief introduction then to two breakout sessions with the same topics running over in both sessions so people have the opportunity to go to more than one topic. After the break out sessions the group would come back for a panel discussion on the NRC report. The suggestion was made that the group reach out to universities that have been active in reaching out into the community around climate change and ask individuals from those universities to lead the breakout sessions.

4. Yvette gave a brief update from the Governance Task Group (GTG). She reported that the GTG would be presenting Bylaw changes that, if approved, will allow for remote voting. The GTG has also developed a new process for voting in response to the bylaw change that was approved last year, which allows one vote per Member Institution. Meg McClellan explained that currently voting must be done in person at the Members Meeting, but if the proposed Bylaw changes are approved physical presents at the Members Meeting will no longer be required for a Member to cast a vote.

5. Tom reported that the Board is starting to work on the re-compete, and would like to enlist PACUR to help. It was suggested that PACUR could facilitate breakout sessions at the Members Meeting around theme of the benefits of UCAR and what UCAR might do differently or better in the future. Tom said the Board was planning to appoint an ad hoc committee to work on the re-compete project over the next 18-months. Yvette, Jennifer, Terri, and Brian indicated they would be interested in serving on the ad hoc committee if asked.

6. Terri Adams, who is a member of the UCP University Relations Committee, gave a brief update on the activities of this committee. Terry reported that the committee had been talking about new funding sources, the development of possible visitor programs, and helping universities help their students frame career opportunities.

7. Jim Hurrell reported some of the responses NCAR received from the NCAR Future Directions breakout sessions some of the PACUR members facilitated at the 2015 Members Meeting. From these sessions, it was clear how important NCAR’s visitor programs are to the universities as is access to digital assets and analysis tools. There were very few suggestions as to what NCAR should stop doing, which raised the question, if cuts are needed down the road what should the process be for deciding what does get cut? Suggestions that came from the discussion with PACUR included the importance of multi-year strategic financial planning, and the need to ensure NCAR’s goals are aligned with the AGS’s goals and objectives. Jim also reported to PACUR regarding the loss of funding from the Air Force Weather Center and the impact that loss will have on WRF development and the community.

~End of Notes~