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

October 14, 2015
3080 Center Green Drive
Boulder, Colorado

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
Cecilia Bitz, University of Washington
Simona Bordoni, Caltech
John Braun, UCP
Dan Czizco, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Jennifer Griswold, University of Hawaii
Gannett Haller, Nevada System of Higher Education
Eric Hoffman, Plymouth State University
Brian Mapes, University of Miami
Rachael Pinker, University of Maryland
Jeff Trapp, University of Illinois

**UCAR, NCAR, UCP and Other Attendees**
Manda Adams, NSF/AGS Program Director
Eric Betterton, University of Arizona – Chair of the UCAR Board of Trustees
Rachael Drummond, UCAR Communications Director
Aneka Finley, UCAR Governance & University Relations
Stephanie Gillin, UCAR President’s Office Chief of Staff
Bernard Grant, NSF/AGS Assistant Program Coordinator
Jim Hurrell, NCAR Director
Melissa Klos, UCAR Governance
Bill Kuo, Interim UCP Director
Meg McClellan, UCAR General Council
Susan Montgomery-Hodge, UCAR President’s Office
Sarah Ruth, NSF/AGS Section Head
Michael Thompson, UCAR Interim President

1. PACUR Chair Yvette Richardson called the meeting or order, and introduced Bill Kuo who was named interim Director of UCP just after the PACUR’s May meeting. Bill said how much he was looking forward to working with PACUR in the future and announced that UCP was working on a strategic plan and that he could present the plan to PACUR in the spring of 2016.
2. Yvette welcomed the newly elected members of PACUR, Eric Hoffman (Plymouth State), Gannett Haller (Nevada System of Higher Ed.), Rachael Pinker (Univ of Maryland) and Allison Steiner (Univ of Michigan). Yvette also thanked the out-going members of PACUR Jeff Trapp, Bob Rauber and Bob Street for their six years of service and valuable guidance.

3. UCAR Board of Trustees Chair, Eric Betterton thanked PACUR for their work on the Members Meeting agenda and mentioned that he felt the comments from the breakout sessions would be very helpful moving ahead with the re-compete for the management of NCAR. He reported that there was not yet a timeline, but that the Board and the UCAR team would begin work soon. He said he wasn’t sure how PACUR would be involved, but wants to continue the conversations with the group. Michael Thompson mentioned that within the proposal to NSF, UCAR would be able to included sidebars, which could be used to highlight success stories. Thompson suggested the PACUR could work with the Members to gather these kinds of stories. Yvette suggested that each Member University include a letter of support of UCAR that could be included in the proposal. PACUR could provide a basic template to the Members Reps so it would be easy to do. Eric also reported that the Board had contracted to work with an executive search firm to find the next UCAR President, and said that firm may reach out to PACUR for input.

4. UCAR President’s Office Chief of Staff, Stephanie Gillin reported on the Members Engagement breakout session from the Members Meeting. Stephanie reported that one surprising sediment from the breakout session was that some member reps didn’t understand how UCAR would change if it no longer managed NCAR. She also mentioned a concern about how many emails to Member Reps go unopened. After some discussion it was agreed that UCAR needs a better way to get the story out and to remind the Members that they are the consortium UCAR. There were also many comments in the Breakout session about the need for UCAR to be more transparent about budgets and providing more information about where the money comes from, how much comes in, where it all goes and what is funded by UCAR overhead. It was suggested the UCAR do a UCAR 101 session either at or before the next Members meeting. Regarding the idea that We are UCAR has different meaning to the Members reps, some agree that all the Members make up UCAR while others think they are there to “keep UCAR in line”. Additional comments included: most Professors that use the services provided by UCP aren’t aware that UCP is UCAR not NCAR, and another good selling point would be to show how UCAR saves the universities money by providing the services that allow the university to do more. According to the comments during the breakout session the benefits of UCAR membership include networking opportunities, advocacy for the sciences, and training for scientist, teachers and students, membership helps combat isolation and some would like to see the creation of research coordination groups. It was also mentioned that some miss the old Academic Affiliate meeting where the group was small enough to really engage in discussions about issues the departments had in common.

5. PACUR chair, Yvette Richardson led the debriefing of the Members Meeting. The discussions revealed that most people liked the Climate Change Impact session on Wednesday. There was discussion about needing more time to discuss bylaw changes, however it was pointed out that some of the Members Reps just didn’t take the time to read the information about the changes
that was posted on the Meeting website before the meeting. It was also agreed that there shouldn’t be discussion questions over lunch.

6. Teri Eastburn from UCAR Center for Science Education gave an overview of the UCARConnect program. UCARConnect started out as UCARLive, which provides live and recorded streaming of seminars at NCAR, which can be used in the classroom. UCARLive is now part of UCARConnect, which is a bounce site to direct visitors to additional educational resources. Teri explained about the featured videos on UCARConnect and invited any of the PACUR members to submit ideas for videos or they could work with the UCAR SciEd staff to create a video on a specific topic.

7. Advanced Study Program Administrator, Paula Fisher gave an update on the Faculty Fellowship Program. Paula reported that since 2005 the program has supported 59 faculty visits, 44 student visits and 7 outbound visits by NCAR scientist. She reviewed the 2015 criteria for Faculty Fellowship proposals which includes scientific merit of the proposal, potential for career development for the applicant, the promise of fruitful and lasting interactions between NCAR and the faculty member, the potential for increasing diversity, and if the university is a UCAR member. Paula said that for 2015, out of 11 applications, 6 inbound applications and 1 outbound application were funded. Regarding funding, Paula reported that currently the program is not funded in the NCAR base budget, however this is not the first time this has happened. The FY16 funding for the program will come from carryover coming from the early departures of postdocs. Paula asked for volunteers to review the FY16 applications. Dan Cziczo, Brian Mapes, Simona Bordoni, and John Braun volunteered.

8. PACUR member and NCAR Non-NSF Proposal Review Panel (PRP) Chair, Bob Street was not able to attend the meeting, but Yvette Richardson reported that the first review cycle of the PRP went well. The process in place for the committee is good and it worked well for the committee to meet in person. The workload for NCAR for the review of the FY14 and FY15 proposals is heavy because they need to retrofit the new criteria to older proposals, but the proposals for FY16 will be submitted under the current criteria so the workload on NCAR staff will be reduced.

9. Yvette Richardson presented the meeting notes from PACUR’s May 2015 meeting the notes were approved without change. There was also discussion about the location and date of PACUR’s spring meeting. The Board will be going back to Washington D.C. in May and PACUR would like to join them on Hill visits again. Michael Thompson said that there would not be another UCAR Weather Day on the Hill event, and a possibility the Board won’t do visits. Once the decision has been made about the Board meeting a decision could be made about the PACUR meeting. Teri Adams did volunteer to host the PACUR meeting at Howard University. It was also decided that PACUR would have monthly conference calls to start planning the 2016 Members Meeting.

~End of Notes~