1. One Vote per Institution

Q. Why are you recommending this change?
A. We are recommending the voting requirement changes for reasons of fairness to all Members. Some Members send one representative to the Annual Meeting; some send two. When a vote requires each individual representative to vote, some institutions become “more equal than others”. A single vote per institution ensures equal representation for all Members.

2. One representative from each institution

Q. Why are you recommending that there be one official representative?
A. The single point of contact for each institution, along with a newly defined role makes it clear for each Member and UCAR where the role and responsibilities reside. Additionally, it follows to have one official voting representative once there is one vote per institution. Beyond that, it also helps UCAR manage its Annual Meeting budget, allowing for some budget flexibility should it be needed in the future, and provides flexibility to invite faculty or administrators who may be interested in a particular Annual Meeting theme or topic.

Q. How will you select the one representative?
A. Each university member has the responsibility to select its official Member Representative.

Q. Can our university continue to send 2 people to the Annual Meeting?
A. Yes, through the 2016 Annual Meeting* you can send two people from your university and UCAR will support travel costs. After 2016, the Board will address costs in future resolutions. As always, you are welcome to send another person to the meeting at your own cost.

*The Board passed the following resolution at its May meeting:
UCAR will reimburse expenses incurred by one official representative and one participant from each institution through the annual meeting in 2016.

Q. Will the one representative have more responsibilities?
A. The one voting rep will be the point of contact for official information regarding the governance of the consortium, as well as for general UCAR, NCAR and UCP information. The representative will have the responsibility to respond to surveys and inquiries, and to convey any university concerns back to UCAR. To that end, new language is proposed for the bylaws:

“The primary role of a Member Representative is to consult with fellow faculty and to accurately represent the position and opinion of the Member on matters relating to UCAR governance, and to inform Member colleagues of relevant UCAR activities.”

Q. Can the official member representative still send a substitute to the Annual Meeting if s/he can’t attend? Will you pay for his/her travel? And will that person be able to vote?
A. Yes.
3. **Creating one membership category**

Q. Why combine the two classes of Membership?
A. The two levels of membership pay about the same renewal fees, are involved in the same meetings, serve on the same UCAR committees, and enjoy the same benefits except for voting at the Annual Meeting.

And as one of the GTG members eloquently put it:

> All PhD granting members in UCAR have institutional commitments to equity, inclusion and diversity that are commensurate with the goals of the proposed Bylaw changes. The UCAR Strategic Plan is also committed to these goals. Thus it would be inconsistent with these policies to continue an organizational structure of UCAR that denies 25% of its membership the right to vote on its leadership positions, strategic goals and other issues.

Having a single membership category will promote the logic of including the strengths of current AA members in NCAR’s research activities, in UCP’s service and outreach programs, and in UCAR’s governance. It will send a strong signal to students and faculty of PhD granting members that one should not exclude peers at AA institutions from research and educational initiatives simply because of their smaller programs.

Q. In combining the two classes of members into one category, will the attention of UCAR and thus NCAR, change from a focus on research to a focus on education?

A. Increasingly, the lines between education and research-focused institutions are blurred. That said, UCAR and NCAR were created to solve atmospheric and related problems that no one university could tackle on its own; NSF created NCAR as one of its Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) and, as such, it is a research- and service-focused institution. We are all—large and small institutions—in the business of contributing to the understanding of the earth’s processes and solving the most pressing challenges facing our planet. While the means (education and research and service) to that end may differ, we are all ultimately looking in the same direction.

Q. Will all Affiliates automatically become full members if this passes?
A. Yes.

Q. If an institution no longer qualifies to be a member, what happens?
A. The requirements for membership remain largely the same, without the absolute requirement of a program leading to a doctorate. Thus, each Member is still required to have a substantial program leading to a baccalaureate, doctorate or other graduate degree in one or more of the atmospheric science or related fields. If the institution does not meet this requirement, it must withdraw its membership. In the event that an institution does not address its changes with UCAR directly, then the Membership Committee may call on the Member to do so.

Q. How will you manage new UCAR membership applications?
A. The Membership Committee is responsible for reviewing applications and recommending new Members based on the university’s application materials. The Members of UCAR elect the members of the Membership Committee.
As a reminder, the proposed Qualifications for Membership are as follows and still remain in effect (ARTICLE 2, Sections 1 and 2, that is to say we are not proposing a change in the membership requirements:

**Qualifications for Membership.** Only universities, other nonprofit institutions or organizations, or divisions or units of universities or other nonprofit institutions or organizations, which: (a) are organized for educational or scientific purposes, and (b) have met the following criteria, shall be eligible for membership:

- **Program of Studies and Research.** Such entity has made a definitive, substantial, and continuing commitment to a full, coherent, and integrated program leading to a baccalaureate, doctorate or other graduate degree in one or more of the atmospheric sciences or related fields; and
- **Progress in the Atmospheric Sciences or Related Fields.** Such entity has made a definitive, substantial, and continuing commitment to progress in the atmospheric sciences or related fields as evidenced by scholarly works of significance by its faculty in the atmospheric sciences or related fields; and
- **Participation.** Such entity is willing to make a clear and continuing commitment to active participation in the activities of the corporation, including governance, and its programs and facilities.

4. **Remove membership term requirements (no member reelection)**

Q. If term limits for members are removed from the bylaws, will each university have to go through the renewal process?
A. No, this change would eliminate the requirement that each university submit renewal material. A university would remain a member as long as their program(s) were still active in the atmospheric and related sciences and yearly dues are paid. The criteria for membership will remain the same.

5. **Remove mention of specific membership fee from bylaws (annual fee approved by Board of Trustees outside of the bylaws)**

Q. What is the current membership fee structure, and if the fee structure changes will it cost more to be a member?
A. Currently, Members pay an initial fee of $10,000 and Affiliates pay $800. After that, Affiliates pay a yearly fee of $400 and Members pay $3500 every eight years. With the new fee structure, all universities would pay $500 a year with no initial membership fee. The amount of the yearly fee will be evaluated and set by the Board of Trustees.

Q. How did you come up with the $500.00 per year membership fee?
A. The goals were to keep UCAR membership affordable for all qualified universities, and make the membership fee easy for universities to plan for in their yearly budgets.

The $500 fee reflects a yearly increase to current affiliates of $100 and less than $70 to current members. The GTG reviewed membership fees of other professional membership organizations.
and found that $500 was reasonable in comparison, and by moving to a yearly fee, departments can budget yearly instead of remembering to budget for the UCAR fee every eight years. The Board of Trustees has approved the $500 yearly membership fee provided the bylaw change is approved by the membership.

The Board has not increased the fees for Members since the late 1980s, and not for the Affiliates since the early 1990s.

Q. Can you explain how the transition will be managed? Fees, etc.
A. We will continue to be flexible with regard to payment of Membership fees; Members will be able to pay annually, or prepay if they desire. Member universities that have become a member or renewed in the last eight years will be given a pro-rata credit for their yearly membership dues and will not be billed for the yearly fee until the year they would have had to renew their membership. For example, if a university renewed their membership last year and paid the renewal fee of $3500 they would not be billed for the yearly fee until 2020. Member universities that were up for renewal this year will be billed the new membership fee of $500 in January 2014 instead of the current renewal fee of $3500.

All current Affiliates will become members, and will be billed the new membership fee of $500 in January 2014.

Any new members will have to submit their application packet to the Membership Committee for review. Upon approval from the committee the university will have temporary membership until the membership is approved, or not, at the Annual Members Meeting.

6. Removing language in the bylaws related to Annual Meeting travel support

Q. Why should we remove language in the bylaws regarding travel expense to the Member’s Meeting, and will my travel to the meeting still be covered by UCAR?

A. Specific details regarding travel expenses are not usually found in by-laws. In addition, removing this language allows for greater flexibility in tight budget years. The Board of Trustees has approved a resolution that will allow for UCAR to pay for two individuals (a voting rep and a guest) from the universities to attend through the 2016 meeting. After the 2016 Member’s Meeting, the Board of Trustees will decide if UCAR should continue the travel support of two individuals.

End of FAQ.