UCAR Membership Committee Review of
Harvard University

Harvard University has been a member of UCAR since 1970. The primary UCAR-related organizations at Harvard University are the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences (EPS), the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology (CCB), and the Harvard- Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. The renewal application packet focuses on Harvard University’s atmospheric science program.

Program of Studies and Research

The renewal application packet reveals that Harvard University is committed to its UCAR-related program of studies and research. That packet lists eight tenured faculty members. Corresponding C.V.s show that their research covers wide range of UCAR-related subjects (e.g., atmospheric chemistry, theoretical atmospheric dynamics, atmospheric modeling on various scales, wind resource management, ocean dynamics, and climate science). An examination of web links provided in the packet shows that all eight faculty members hold joint appointments with EPS and SEAS. One faculty member also holds an appointment with CCB. In addition to the eight tenured faculty members described above, the packet states that an additional atmospheric science faculty member was recently appointed as an assistant professor within SEAS. The packet also states there are 45 research staff, 42 graduate students, and 35 undergraduate students concentrating in atmospheric science.

The renewal application packet states that Harvard University offers two types of degrees in atmospheric science: A.B. and Ph.D. An examination of the web links provided within the packet shows that those degrees programs are housed within EPS and that for the A.B. degree, atmosphere science is a focus of study within the EPS concentration. The packet states that 36 A.B. degrees and 25 Ph.D. degrees have been granted since the 08-09 academic year. Examples of graduate students earning awards, and employment upon graduation, are provided as evidence of the strength of the program. The packet makes no reference to the corresponding instructional and research facilities.

Progress in Atmospheric Sciences

The renewal application packet demonstrates Harvard University’s commitment to progress in UCAR-related sciences. For example, during the current membership period, atmospheric scientists have published hundreds of refereed articles and they held leadership positions within many high-level organizations (e.g., the National Research Council, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).

Participation in UCAR Activities

The renewal application packet shows that Harvard University atmospheric scientists participate in the activities of UCAR. Examples provided are participation in UCAR meetings and collaborations with NCAR scientists.
Recommendation and Assessment of the Evaluation Committee

The UCAR Membership Committee concludes that membership criteria are fulfilled, and recommends to the Members’ Representatives that the membership of Harvard University be continued as provided by the bylaws.