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URC Purpose

- To advise the UCAR President by
 - proposing agenda items for the Members' Meeting
 - proposing activities for UCAR to undertake
 - reviewing non-NSF proposals
 - considering charges of unfair competition by the university community
 - reviewing UOP funding for activities that lie outside the scope of sponsor agreements forming the core of each UOP program
- To help maintain good communication and relationships between the Corporation and its Members

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Current URC Members

- Kelvin Droegemeier (Chair), University of Oklahoma (2001)
- Eric Betterton, University of Arizona (2004) - second tour of duty!
- Christopher Bretherton, University of Washington (2001)
- Matt Hitchman, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2001)
- Mingfang Ting, University of Illinois (2001)
- Ken Pickering, University of Maryland (2002)
- Seth Stein, Northwestern University (2002)
- Gene Tackle, Iowa State University (2002)

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So Long...and THANKS!

- Robin Bell, Lamont-Doherty Observatory
- Richard Clark, Millersville University
- Judy Curry, University of Colorado
- Jeff Dozier, University of California at Santa Barbara

- Maura Hagan, NCAR Liaison (HAO)
- Charlie Martin, NCAR Liaison (ATD)



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Welcome Aboard Later Today!

- Efi Foufoula-Georgiou, University of Minnesota (2003)
- Everett Joseph, Howard University-New Member University (2003)
- Pat Reiff, Rice University (2003)

- Mary Barth, NCAR Liaison (MMM)
- Ginger Caldwell, NCAR Liaison (SCD)

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NCAR Division Liaisons

- ACD Eric Betterton
- ASP Ken Pickering
- ATD Gene Takle
- CGD Chris Bretherton
- ESIG TBD
- HAO TBD
- MMM Mingfang Ting
- RAP TBD
- SCD Kelvin Droegemeier

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Key Activities: October, 1999 Meeting and April, 2000 Meeting at Millersville

- Implemented an orientation program for new URC members similar to that used for the Board of Trustees (Jack Fellows)
- Non-Core Proposals
 - UCAR/NCAR continue to do an excellent job meeting the criteria
 - support of NCAR mission
 - no unfair competition with universities
 - meaningful collaboration with universities or contribution to community resources/supporting regular NSF-funded UCAR program
 - Co-sponsorship still a sticky issue
 - The URC today is going to review and seek ways to streamline the current process and reduce the sense of being a "watch dog"

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■ Instrumentation Development

- Continued concern by many about diminished activities in instrumentation development at universities
- Melanie Wetzel (DRI) conducted informal but comprehensive survey
- Letter drafted by Wetzel and URC, with help from G. Tackle and R. Serafin, for possible submission by UCAR/NCAR to the NSF
- Chose to put letter on hold and seek additional information at the Heads and Chairs Meeting (tomorrow)

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- Instrumentation Development
 - Gene Takle has new paper in *BAMS*
 - His new survey, similar to that in 1989, was sent to 93 universities: 53 responded
 - Of 6 problem areas, 2 remain serious
 - Observational systems receive less attention than computers w/r/t upgrade and replacement
 - Still a great need for quality instruction
 - Some responded that problems are worse than 10 years ago
 - University requests of NCAR facilities for educational use
 - tend to be late
 - tend to be unfunded
 - do not adequately describe link to curriculum

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■ Instrumentation Development

- Dave Carlson of ATD is looking at ways to improve and encourage usage
 - Shortened version of OFAP guidelines
 - Photos and descriptions of all facilities and instruments on the web
 - Use of mobile radars for education and more involvement by private companies

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■ NRC Ranking of Doctoral Degree Granting Atmospheric Science Departments

- Every 10 years the NRC ranks DGG programs
- Atmospheric sciences hasn't ever been included but will be this time
- The UCAR Board of Trustees and many others voiced significant concern
- Outcry led to a 1-year study on selection process by the NRC
- The URC will continue to coordinate with UCAR to provide input

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■ Last-Minute RA Declinations

- More graduate students in the atmospheric sciences appear to be backing out of RA commitments at the last minute, making virtually impossible the recruitment of replacements
- Not certain how pervasive the problem is
- Good topic for the Heads and Chairs!

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■ Quality of Graduate Students

- The URC reviewed materials on this topic prepared by the Board of Trustees (G. Vali, D. Thomson, and D. Houghton)
- For the 5-year period 1995-2000
 - GRE scores appear to be stable
 - The number of applications, admissions, and matriculations have fallen by 8.1%, 1.3%, and 2.8% per year, respectively
 - The ratio of entering students to number of applications decreased at 7.6% per year (tied to trends in funding?)
 - The reasons are unclear and complex
- The Heads and Chairs and BOT continue to examine this issue and the URC will work with them

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■ Community Involvement

- The URC is remains very concerned about the general lack of understanding by the university community regarding the mission, programs, and opportunities at NCAR/UCAR
- The attitudes seem to be
 - How can NCAR help me?
 - Why do I need to know about NCAR and UCAR if I don't collaborate with their scientists or use their facilities?
 - Many key issues for the future (e.g., effective partnerships among universities, government, and the private sector)
- The URC today will discuss holding a special session on UCAR and NCAR for the entire community at the 2001 AMS Annual Meeting

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■ Other Activities

- At its spring “university” meeting at Millersville, the URC met in various formats with the faculty and students will continue this practice in the future
- The URC helped shape the current Members’ Meeting and is heavily involved with the Forum Sessions

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Thank You

- NCAR and UCAR staff are unbelievably helpful, positive, and proactive
- Many thanks to Jack Fellows, Walt Dabberdt, Susan Warner, Susan Friberg, Rick Anthes, Tim Killeen, and Cindy Schmidt
- Service on the URC is rewarding, educational, and fun, and I thank all of the Members for their service

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