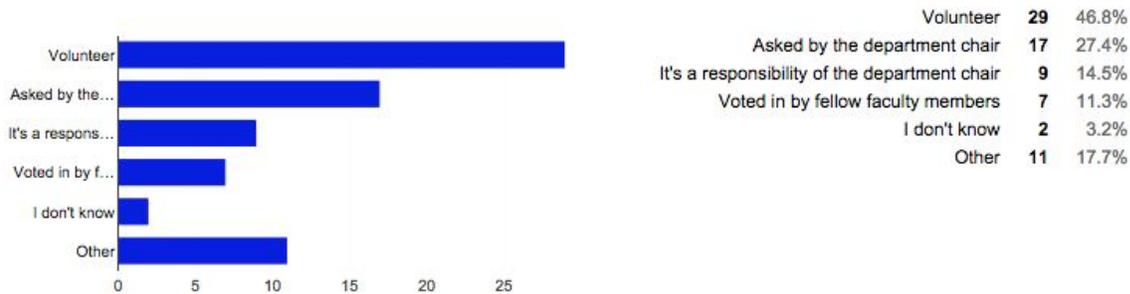


## Survey of Member Representatives Executive Summary October 2015

The member representatives survey was conducted to learn more about what it means to be a member representative, how UCAR can provide better services, and how UCAR can further engage university members. All member representatives received the survey via email link during the 2015 annual meeting. Of the 201 member representatives, 62 completed the survey (31%).

The tenure of member representatives who responded varied from less than one year to more than 20 years. More than 46% had volunteered for the role; 27% were asked to serve as member representative by their department chair.

### What is the process in your department for selecting Member Representatives?



### The role of the member representative

Respondents indicated that the **top three most important roles** of a member representative are: Participation in discussions, communicating UCAR/NCAR news to their department, and participation in UCAR/NCAR strategic planning.

### What is the most important job of the member representative.



### Would you support term limits for Member Representatives to allow for more community interaction?



Nearly 73% of those surveyed would **not** support **term limits** for member representatives. Of those that did support term limits, ten felt that three to six years were appropriate and only three felt six to 12 years were appropriate.

Networking with other scientists in the field is **what respondents enjoy most** about being a member representative. They also enjoy learning more about UCAR/NCAR, connecting with what is happening in the field, influencing the direction of NCAR, and receiving updates on happenings at NSF and elsewhere in Washington, D.C.

Most (95%) respondents **disseminate UCAR news** to their colleagues and do so by email, informal discussions, and meetings.

### Annual Meeting Feedback

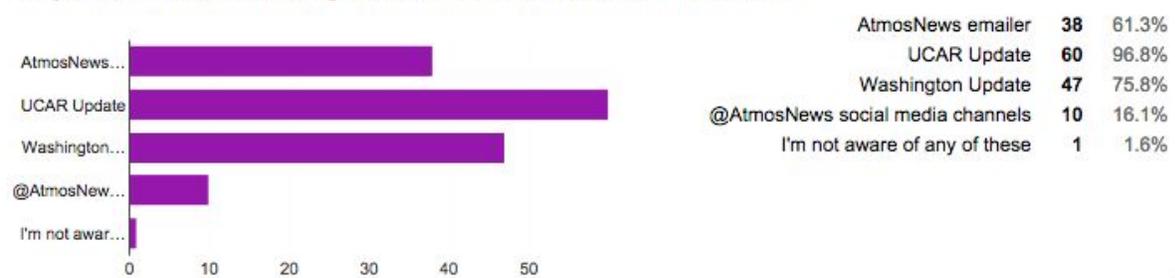
Respondents would like to have **more networking opportunities** at the annual meeting, as well as more **scientific discussions, advocacy discussions**, and workshops on **community topics**. Just over half (55%) make their voting decisions in consultation with the other member representative.

When asked how UCAR can help them encourage more involvement from other department members, the suggestions were diverse. A few said that member representatives should be responsible for getting others involved, while others suggested providing different types of communications materials from UCAR, including emailers, videos, brochures, posters, and direct mailers. The most relevant materials would be targeted and concise and would describe what UCAR is and how UCAR can benefit the university and faculty.

### Communication from UCAR

Awareness of the various communications tools among respondents was high: 97% said they were aware of UCAR Update and they read it.

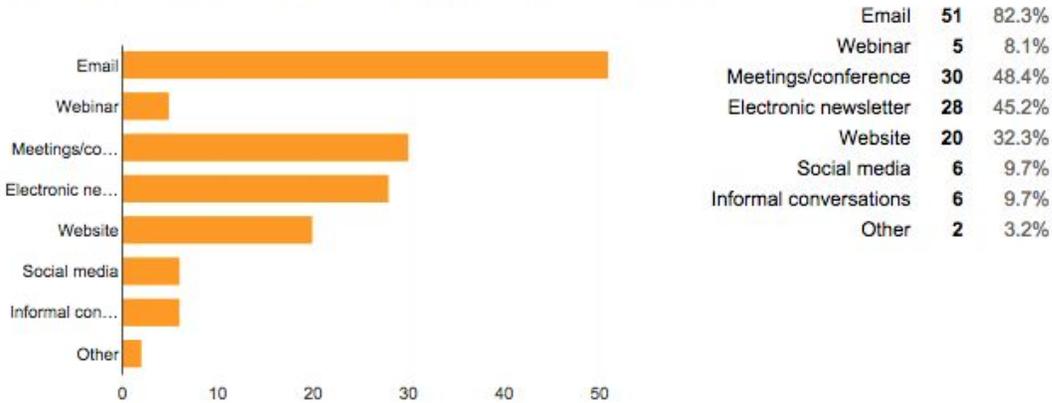
**Are you aware of the following sources of UCAR news and information?**



**If you are aware of the monthly newsletter UCAR Update, do you read it?**



**How do you like to receive news and information about UCAR?**



**Activities on Behalf of the Community**

Respondents felt that the number one most important role for UCAR in Washington D.C. is **advocating for science**. When **working with industry leaders**, the top three most important roles were: connecting industry and university researchers (74%), helping industry leaders better understand science (57%), and fostering research to operations opportunities (50%).

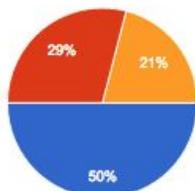
**University Relations**

Awareness of University Relations programs (UVisit, UMatch, President’s visits, and UCARConnect) is fairly high among respondents. UVisit was the most recognized program, with 82% awareness. Other suggestions for University Relations initiatives included focusing on young scientists and on student populations. A few said that the current programs were fine and that we should focus our efforts on ensuring UVisit and UMatch are working well.

## Membership Fees and Renewal Process

The respondents were split 50/50 on whether the renewal process should be changed. The fees and process received the largest amount of written comments, as it seems to be a critical topic for the member representatives who answered the survey.

### Do you feel the current membership renewal process is....

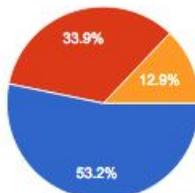


Very useful, don't change anything	31	50%
Outdated and no longer needed, it should be eliminated	18	29%
Outdated, but still useful, I can suggest changes	13	21%

Respondents said the renewal process was “onerous” and “tedious” paperwork. They would recommend efforts be made to simplify and streamline the process. Some questioned: if all applicants for renewal are approved, then why should there be a process at all? A few others wondered: if a member institution is not involved, should they be allowed to renew their membership?

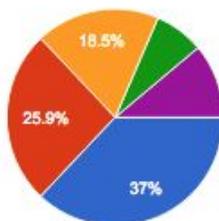
More than half of respondents would like membership fees to stay the same. For those that feel the fees should change, they felt that \$500-\$1,000 annually would be an appropriate amount.

### What are your opinions about membership fees? (check only one answer)



The initial fees and renewal fees should remain the same	33	53.2%
There should only be an annual membership fee, no initial fee	21	33.9%
Another fee structure should apply	8	12.9%

### If you feel the membership fee should be changed to an annual fee, how much should it be?



\$500	10	37%
\$1,000	7	25.9%
\$2,500	5	18.5%
\$5,000	2	7.4%
Other	3	11.1%

Comments about membership and renewal fees were mixed, but it should be noted that a few respondents were unsure about what the membership fee pays for. Others said they thought a modest annual fee would be appropriate and free membership would not be valued by the universities. Only one individual suggested UCAR raise the fees to make the organization less costly to run.

### **Benefits of Membership**

The final open-ended question on the survey asked about benefits of membership. This question elicited similar responses to those for the earlier question about what they enjoyed most about being a member representative. Respondents said the main benefits of membership include:

- networking and connecting to the community
- access to UCAR/NCAR resources
- having a coherent voice in Washington
- being a part of UCAR/NCAR planning and governance