



Report to the *Unidata Policy Committee*

May 20, 2002

Clifford A. Jacobs
National Science Foundation
Division of Atmospheric Sciences
Head, UCAR and Lower Atmospheric Facilities
Oversight Section
4201 Wilson Blvd, Suite 775
Arlington, VA 22230
www.nsf.gov



Updates From NSF

- FY 2002 Budgets & Operating Plan
- Renewal of the NSF-UCAR Cooperative Agreement
- Unidata Proposal
- Uncle Sam Wants You





Budgets

- FY 2002 Appropriation
 - Total: \$4.789 billion
 - Increase: \$373 million
 - 8.4% over FY2001 level



Division of Atmospheric Sciences

- FY 2002 Operating Plan - \$193.8 M (~6.4% incr.)
- Highlights
 - Atm. Sciences Proj. Support – \$121.3 M (~7.5 % incr.)
 - NCAR – \$64.9 M (~11.6% incr.)
 - CSL - \$7.5 M (~6.2% incr.)
 - Upper Atm. Obs. - \$5.0 M (~117.4 % incr.)
 - Deployment Pool - \$3.6 M (~17.3% incr.)
 - **Unidata - \$3.1 M (~6.3%)**
- Priority Areas
 - USWRP (ATM)
 - NSWP (ATM)
 - Carbon & Water Cycle (GEO)
 - Biocomplexity in the Environment (NSF)
 - Information Technology Research (NSF)



Information Item to the ***National Science Board*** Committee on Program and Plans

May 8, 2002

Renewal of the Cooperative Agreement
between the National Science Foundation and
the University Corporation for Atmospheric
Research for the Operation and Maintenance
of the National Center for Atmospheric
Research



Major Review Events

	Start	End
Divisional Reviews	Sept. – Oct. 2001	Dec. 2001
Management Review	Nov. 2001	Jan. 2002
Competition Yes/No Recommendation & DRB Approval	March 2002	May 2002
Proposal	Sept. 2002	Dec. 2002
Prepare & Sign New CA	Feb. 2003	Oct. 2003



Review of Science & Facilities

- There were eight reviews conducted involving 58 mail reviews and 47 on-site panel reviewers and 16 UCAR member institution observers.
- Overall ratings of the past performance of the divisions and programs is Very Good to Excellent
 - **No critical issues identified**
 - **Challenges identified for the future**
 - **Planning and Management**
 - **Balance of Resources and Effort**
 - **Communication**
 - **Service to the Community**
 - **Broader impact**



Management Panel

- Process
 - Management document submitted to NSF and send out for review
 - Verbatim mail reviews and the UCAR/NCAR response was sent to on-site panel members prior to site visit
 - The outcomes from Science / Facilities reviews provided as supporting information to the Management Review



Management Review Panel Members

- **D. James Baker, consultant, Chair**
 - Former Undersecretary of Commerce and Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- **Dr. Charles Elachi, Director, JPL**
- **Susan Fruchter, consultant**
 - Former Director Office of Policy and Strategic Planning NOAA
- **Sir Julian Hunt, University College, London**
 - Professor of Climate Modeling, Dept. of Space & Climate Physics, and Geological Sciences
 - Former Director-General and Chief Executive of the UK Met. Office. Proper title: Lord Hunt of Chesterton
- **Professor J. David Litster, Vice President and Dean for Research, MIT**
 - Professor of Physics



Management Review (2)

– Major Findings

- UCAR and NCAR have an excellent leadership team
- The NCAR Strategic Plan is well thought out and visionary with a powerful sense of future direction.
- The Education and Outreach strategic plan is also exemplary, with an aggressive set of priorities and goals and commendable ongoing programs.
- NCAR/UCAR provides a supportive environment to carry out interdisciplinary research in atmospheric sciences.
- Overall, the internal administrative support is very good, morale in the laboratory is high, and the laboratory has a good sense of the future



Management Review (3)

– Major Recommendations

- NCAR must continue to attract the highest quality scientific staff
- Modest increase in core support
- NCAR should broaden its measures of excellence
 - additional metrics that reflect both scientific achievement and international recognition
- UCAR and NCAR management should remain vigilant on the HIAPER project
- UCAR encouraged to develop a long-range space plan that will complement its scientific strategic plan



NSF Decision Process

- **NSB Policy**
 - **NSB 97-224 “...expiring awards are to be recompleted unless it is judged to be in the best interest of U.S. science and engineering not to do so.”**
- **GEO considered**
 - **The quality and productivity of the institution’s science and facility and plans for the future**
 - **The past and future extent of direct service to the scientific community**
 - **The management and scientific leadership, including past and future priorities**
 - **The process for setting priorities within the institution reflects consideration of the NSF merit review criteria**
 - **Time for current efforts to come to fruition**



GEO Decision

- Recompetition is not in the best interest of US atmospheric science
 - New director of NCAR hired about 1 1/2 years ago
 - New strategic plan
 - New initiative to diversity scientific staff
 - Enhanced attention to the role of NCAR in supporting the academic community
 - NSF should give the new management and management initiatives an opportunity to develop



GEO Decision

- Renew cooperative agreement for five years with a management review in 2 1/2 years
 - Because of the stipulation that a change requires 15 month notification, a shorter duration contract would force a virtually immediate management review



NEXT STEPS

- NSF will request a five year renewal proposal from UCAR for the management and operation of NCAR
 - Proposal due September 2002
 - Review completed March 2003
- Recommendation to NSB for May 2003 meeting
- New Cooperative Agreement
 - Agreement will specify a management review in 2 1/2 years into Cooperative Agreement
- Expect to complete the management of NCAR in the future



Unidata Proposal

Timeline and review
considerations



Review Process

- Mail reviews
 - Ten to fifteen
- On-site Panel
 - Six to eight panel members
- COI
 - Community activity guidelines provided prior to preparation by UPC of suggested review list



Timeline

Weeks after proposal submission

- + one week to send it out for review
- + seven weeks for reviews to come back
- + nine weeks for analysis of reviews and material provided to on-site review panel and UPC
- + eleven weeks for on-site panel
- + fourteen weeks for panel report to be finalized
- + seventeen weeks for program officer analysis and recommendation

Holidays and unforeseen delays will expand

The process to twenty to twenty-one weeks



Approval Process

- Award would be made under NSF-UCAR Cooperative Agreement
 - Separate SPO
- Present NSF guidelines will not require additional internal review (different from last time)
 - Threshold for the internal review of large NSF activities
 - Director's Review Board – 2 ½ % of Division Budget
 - For ATM this is \$4.7 M / yr.
 - National Science Board – 1% of Directorate Budget
 - For GEO this is \$6.1 M* / yr.

* certain new activities require special internal review



IPA Position Posted



- Program Coordinator
 - NSF Announcement No. E20020096
- IPA position for up to 2 years
- Will work for the UCAR oversight section
 - Including oversight of Unidata
- Announcement dates
 - Open 4/10/02
 - Close 6/05/02



Questions and Comments
