

# **Annual Report of the UCAR Community Advisory Committee for NCEP**

**2015**

**Managed by the  
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research**

## **UCACN**

**Frederick Carr, co-chair (University of Oklahoma)**

**James Kinter, co-chair (George Mason University)**

**Alan Blumberg (Stevens Institute of Technology)**

**Lance Bosart (University of Albany)**

**Gilbert Brunet (Canadian Meteorological Centre)**

**Shuyi Chen (University of Miami)**

**John Dutton (Prescient Weather)**

**Bill Kuo (National Center for Atmospheric Research)**

**Gary Lackmann (North Carolina State University)**

**Tsengdar Lee (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)**

**Peter Neilley (The Weather Company)**

**Warren Qualley (Harris Corporation)**

**Karen Shelton-Mur (Federal Aviation Administration)**

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background and Charge

This report contains the annual evaluation of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) by the UCAR (University Corporation for Atmospheric Research) Community Advisory Committee for NCEP (UCACN, pronounced, “you-can”).

The context for this report was created in November 2008 when UCAR was requested by NCEP to conduct a thorough and thoughtful review of the nine Centers that comprise NCEP, as well as the NCEP Office of the Director (OD). An Executive Committee plus five panels conducted the reviews, which are collectively referred to as the 2009 Review. The reports, completed in early 2010, are available at <http://www.vsp.ucar.edu/UCACN/index.html>. One of the major recommendations of the 2009 Review was that NCEP should establish a permanent external advisory committee to provide guidance on improvement of products and services based on the latest advances in science and technology. As a result, UCACN was established by UCAR in March 2011; its primary responsibilities are:

1. *To conduct a comprehensive review of NCEP (the nine Centers and the Office of the Director) every five years, starting in the year 2015.*
2. *In the years between the comprehensive reviews, to:*
  - a. *Monitor progress of the Centers in the context of the NCEP strategic plan and previous UCACN recommendations, and provide informal updates and advice to NCEP leadership through the UCAR President (or designate).*
  - b. *Provide input to the strategic planning and long-range goals of the Centers and NCEP as a whole.*

## 1.2 2015 UCACN Activities

### **Membership changes:**

The terms of several UCACN members ended in 2015, including both co-chairs, Fred Carr and Jim Kinter. Fred Carr was appointed co-chair of the newly-formed UMAC sub-committee (see below), and Jim Kinter was appointed a member of the UMAC. Warren Qualley was appointed as a new co-chair in April 2015, but he had to step down in October 2015, due to increased commitments in his job. Gary Lackmann was appointed as a new co-chair in September 2015, and Peter Neilley was appointed to replace Warren Qualley in December 2015 – both appointments were announced in January 2016.

### **Meetings:**

In 2015, a special sub-committee of the UCACN was formed, called the UCACN Modeling Advisory Committee (UMAC). Fred Carr, stepping down as co-chair of UCACN, was appointed co-chair of UMAC, along with Ricky Rood (University of Michigan). The UMAC was charged by Bill Lapenta, Director of NCEP, and the committee was formed, composed of both UCACN members and experts from outside the committee. The UMAC organized several conference calls and a full on-site meeting on 4-7 August 2015. The report of the UMAC, issued in December 2015 is available here:

[https://www.earthsystemcog.org/site\\_media/projects/umac\\_model\\_advisory/UMAC\\_Final\\_Report\\_20151207-v14.pdf](https://www.earthsystemcog.org/site_media/projects/umac_model_advisory/UMAC_Final_Report_20151207-v14.pdf)

Because the UMAC activities were all-consuming for several UCACN members and even more so for staff members of NCEP, especially the Environmental Modeling Center (EMC) and the NCEP Central Operations (NCO), the UCACN leadership, in consultation with NCEP leadership, decided to forego its normal annual meeting and postpone the anticipated major review of all of NCEP to 2016. The UCACN was kept informed of UMAC progress via email and conference calls in late 2015, and a briefing on the UMAC report to NOAA leadership was planned for 11 January 2016 at the Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society.

New co-chairs Gary Lackmann and Peter Neilley are currently working with Bill Lapenta on 2016 UCACN activities, including the appointment of new members.

## **Appendix: Acronyms**

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| AMS   | American Meteorological Society                 |
| EMC   | Environmental Modeling Center                   |
| NCO   | NCEP Central Operations                         |
| OD    | (NCEP) Office of the Director                   |
| UCACN | UCAR Community Advisory Committee for NCEP      |
| UCAR  | University Corporation for Atmospheric Research |