This meeting was held at the National Weather Center in Room 1313. The meeting opened with Lauren Duhon, President of OUSCAMS, welcoming all new and returning members. The officers were then introduced by Lauren Duhon. The officers are as follows: Bethany Hardzinski, Vice-President; Brian Henning, Treasurer; Emma Fagan, Senior Representative; Addison Alford, Junior Representative; Connor Keef, Sophomore Representative; and Timothy Hardin, Outreach Coordinator. It was then announced that elections for Secretary and Freshman Representative will be at the end of the meeting.

Next, Lauren talked about the dues and how the incentive points work within OUSCAMS. Then the different upcoming outreach events were briefly discussed. Kaitlyn Smoleroft talked about the upcoming National Weather Festival, held on November 3, 2012, and needing volunteers for different positions, but said she would discuss this more at a later date. The normal events OUSCAMS participates, Big Event, Relay for Life, Mr. Meteorology, were briefly touched, but will be discussed at a later date.

Maegan Rowlinson and Stefan Rahimi talked about SPaRCE, Schools of the Pacific Rainfall Climate Experiment, and the need for people to write letters to these schools. She has offered up incentives to people that write 5, 10, and 15 letters.

After introductions and outreach events, the floor was handed over to Dr. Dave Parsons to welcome all the students back to what we hope is a wonderful school year. He mentioned the incoming freshman class and how 6 out of the 14 AMS Scholarship winners are at the University of Oklahoma. He mentioned the faculty is working on making the class sizes smaller so that there is a smaller student-to-teacher ratio. He also touched on the exchange programs we have, especially the one at Reading, England. He mentioned it is a great experience and you get to meet new people.

Next, Dr. Petra Klein took the floor to discuss all the exchange programs the School of Meteorology participates in. She is the coordinator of the School of Meteorology European Exchange Program. According to her, there are many reasons to study abroad, including broadening your horizons, learning foreign languages, making friends, travelling, learning about weather in other parts of the world, networking, and learning to live in culturally diverse environments. OU Meteorology offers there study abroad programs: Reading, England; Hamburg, Germany; and Monash, Australia. The courses taken while studying abroad, match up with courses taught at OU, allowing students to graduate on time. The study abroad is done in the Spring semester of the student’s Junior year. All study abroad students take 12 INTL hours and remain OU students, paying tuition at OU.

Dr. Klein then talked in detail about the program at Reading, England. Reading is a large town located 40KM west of London with an excellent public transportation system that allows students to visit London whenever they want. The University of Reading has an excellent meteorology program and a beautiful campus. The campus is over 300 acres and is located close to the Reading town Centre. Teaching at Reading is divided into three 10-week terms, with OU students taking classes in Spring and Summer terms. Most study abroad students stay in the Residence halls while at Reading. The School of Meteorology Reading Coordinator is Dr. Pete Lamb. Recent OU students at Reading are Lindsay Ross,
Jonathan Wille, and Austin Harris. Current Reading students at OU are Rachel Bartlett, Michael Cartwright, Joanna Maybourn, Chuen Chui, Matt Feist, Luke Phillipson, Jake Gristey, and Nicholas Lee.

The next thing Dr. Klein discussed was the program at Monash, Australia. The University of Monash is ranked in the top 50 universities in the world. It has Australia’s largest campus, and has a strong focus on international exchange with the student body being 30% international students. Meteorology courses at Monash are part of the Mathematical Science department, with METR courses also offered in the Geography and Environmental Science department. Classes at Monash start around March 1st, which is known as the Fall Semester there since they are in the Southern Hemisphere. Study abroad students need to be at Monash two weeks before classes start. The School of Meteorology Coordinator for Monash is Dr. Fred Carr. Casey Peirano attended Monash in the Spring and we currently do not have any students from Monash here.

The last place Dr. Klein discussed with OUSCAMs was Hamburg, Germany. Hamburg is Germany’s second largest city with 1.8 million people. It is a harbor city with great public transportation as well. The University of Hamburg is an urban campus, Germany’s 5th largest University, and one of the European Centers for Atmospheric Research. Classes at Hamburg typically start around April 1st and go until July 15th. Classes are typically taught in German, but there are English-speaking tutors available. Students should not be scared about learning German. The School of Meteorology has funds to pay for language lessons that are taught at a top language school from January through March. The School of Meteorology Coordinator for Hamburg is Dr. Petra Klein herself. Recent OU students that attended Hamburg are Kaitlyn Smoleroff, Daniela Spade, and Nicole Ramsay, a grad student. We current have five students from Hamburg at OU: Astrid Eichhoin, Mareike Burba, Gerrit Woerner, Jonas Lauer, and Philipp Henckes.

The last thing Dr. Klein talked about was the study abroad application process. Prospective students must have a 3.0 GPA and must have gotten a ‘B’ in the Intro to Meteorology sequence. In addition, prospective students must contact the faculty liaison of their chosen program and send said person an email before September 21st. These students must attach an OU transcript, a brief statement of why they want to study abroad, and two personal references with contact information. Students must then complete the study abroad application from OU with the questionnaire and two letters of recommendation by September 21st.

After Dr. Klein finished, OU students gave presentations on their times at their respective schools and answered any questions. After these presentations were complete, elections for Secretary and Freshman Representative were started.

Nominations were called for Secretary and Megan McClellan was elected unanimously. Next, all Freshman members present were invited to vote and/or run for the position of Freshman Representative. The top three vote-getters were chosen; they were Zackery Zounes, Kate-Lynn Walsh, and Rachel Norris.

The meeting was then adjourned. The next meeting will be held at the National Weather Center, in Room 1313, on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, at 6:30 P.M.