University Perceptions

• Many in the academic community are skeptical of THORPEX relevance to their university mission

• That doesn’t mean we are not interested in participating (or working closely with operational centers), but we do not want our science dictated or defined by operational needs

• We would like to see more evidence to support the stated importance of academic involvement.
University Perspectives

• Identify a handful of fundamental scientific questions related to “predictability”
  – Regimes, disentangling model error and initial condition error, scale interaction, etc.

• Research choices are made independent of operational goals – if operations wants them they will come
  – Education is our primary mission

• Use NCAR as a facilitator for research beyond the reach of individual PIs
  – Define 2-3 thematic problems of community interest where NCAR role is essential
  – Development and maintenance of academic community “tools” (“nature” runs, DART, community models)
University Path

- A core academic group has been identified that intends to define the academic role within THORPEX
- Don’t want to become an academic sub-committee
- Lobby funding agencies to earmark a pool of new academic funding