Areas for Improvement

- Classes
- Teaching/TAing
- Evaluation (including quals)
- Research
- Misc.

Based on feedback from the astronomy department faculty and graduate students
Classes

• Spread classes out (but financial considerations?)
• Get rid of 3\textsuperscript{rd} class (but loss of breadth?)
• Always offer optional 3\textsuperscript{rd} astronomy class
  – Topical seminar class
• Evaluate syllabi for overlaps, gaps
• 836 Educational seminar required
• General astrophysics and/or “physics for astronomers course”
Teaching and TA

- As discussed in previous 836 course, more teaching-oriented TA duties (already in the works)
  - Shift to discussion session duties, but with what time commitment?
- Required or strongly encouraged to teach a summer course during graduate career
- Evaluate and define support TA role
Evaluation

- Evaluate goals of the qualifying exams, and see if they meet these goals
- Communicate these goals to the students
- Ensure consistent, relevant qualifiers
- Only require passing each qual once
- Yearly evaluations
Research

- Encourage multiple advisors during graduate career (seperate masters and PhD projects)
- One specialized (department funded?) conference
- One required talk per year
  - Examples: 836, symposium, TUNA, etc.
Miscellany

- Increased interaction with and recruiting of undergraduates
- Evaluation of the department by the student upon graduation
Summary

- **Classes**
  - requirements, redundancies, general ed

- **Teaching/ TAing**
  - job emphasis, summer course

- **Evaluation**
  - qualifiers consistent, yearly eval

- **Research**
  - multiple topics, conference, talks

- **Misc.**
  - undergrads, eval
Discussion Highlights

• Classes: may not be enough professors at this time to address some issues, and students are encouraged to take classes outside dept.

• Piedmont Valley Community College for possible teaching experience

• Qualifier is seen as a two-part test, not two separate tests; give back results?

• Yearly evaluations of all students are done, but need to check consistency of these

• Computational class?

• Improve NRAO ties; resurrect journal club?