1. The Department of Atmospheric Sciences’ PhD program’s student learning outcome has been assessed by graduated students since 2001.

2. We intend to continue collecting data of exit interviews and Student Learning Outcome Assessment (SLOA) for the PhD program.

3. Outcomes data and exit interviews were collected in 2011/2012 for the two students who graduated in AY12 and the SLOA files were updated accordingly. Of the two PhDs’ students both are employed at UAF.

4. All of the graduates said it was a good idea to hire a micrometeorologist for the opportunity of field work and the teaching of a sea-ice air class was good. A special topic class on writing skills was suggested; in response, some of the faculty did implement scientific writing in their classes in form of students’ projects.

5. A frequently mentioned difficulty is funding. However, with 99% of our program budget (including one TA position) bound in salaries there is no possibility to fund students out of the departmental budget.

6. Students want to have more opportunities to gain teaching experience. Unfortunately, we have only one TA position which means that only one student per year will have a chance to get such experience. We will try to work with other departments for opportunities.

7. Like for the previous years, the filled out 2012 “PhD SLOA” is stored in the department’s administrative office.

8. A synoptic faculty search was conducted and an offer was made. It is planned that the candidate will teach his first class fall 2012.

9. Two PhD students won awards. One student for an outstanding poster presentation at the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) Open Science Conference, and the other students for an oral presentation at the Alaska Weather Symposium. Two PhD students won travel awards to the NCL-tutorial and one PhD student won an AGU travel award.

10. Six PhD students either presented posters or gave an oral presentation at various conferences; i.e., the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) Open Science Conference, Alaska Weather Symposium, AGU, the Coastal Hazards Symposium, ANSEP, and WRF-CMAQ.

11. Four PhD students have published papers either as first author or co-authored during this academic year.

12. Budget implications: We need some support for graduate student stipends.

Attachments: MS SLOA; PhD SLOA
Annual Outcomes Assessment Report for the PhD program

cc: Dean Paul Layer, Ms. Hild Peters