1. **Assessment information collected**
   
   Questionnaire and request for written supplemental comments.

2. **Conclusions drawn from the information summarized above**

   During this round of SLOA four students graduated with a Ph.D. in Physics/Space Physics. There were no respondents to the surveys (as noted in the footnote annotations in the title block) so all feedback was obtained via written inquiry. The four students worked at the Geophysical Institute on Space Physics-related research. Three students focused on the numerical simulation of space plasmas, while one student focused on data analysis. Two students are presently employed with postdoctoral research positions. One student has applied for a teaching position but the outcome has not yet been determined. One student has applied to several research opportunities and continues to work on the publication of thesis materials in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*. This student is also engaged in an education and public outreach project focusing on the aurora.
3. Curricular changes resulting from conclusions drawn above

The department members are very cognizant of the sea change in the state of science funding. As a result, we have offered more TA opportunities to students whose advisors have had trouble keeping the students fully funded in an RA position. We have revised our contract letter language to reflect these realities, in that the students are guaranteed only the first year with TA support. At some point, the idea of 12-month support on an RA may not be sustainable.

The department is currently reviewing the suitability of our program with respect to curriculum for research preparation. A significant challenge is balancing comprehensive exam preparation (core physics courses) with research preparation (e.g. elective courses with research focus). The department currently conducts a written comprehensive examination at the beginning of the third year (late August) and much of the student’s time during the first two years is dedicated to exam preparation. We only guarantee 1 year of TA support, leaving a potential 15-month gap with no funding support. Several proposals to streamline the comprehensive exam requirements have been discussed including, for example, moving the comprehensive exam into the second year. The space physics elective sequence was restructured in 2013-2014 to provide students with more opportunity to take at least one elective course in the first two years. PHYS673 (Space Physics) was previously tailored for a third-year student with experience in Plasma Physics. We now encourage students to take this “survey” course concurrently with Plasma Physics in an attempt to streamline research preparation.

4. Identify the faculty members involved in reaching the conclusions drawn above and agreeing upon the curricular changes resulting

The department continues to consider to all aspects of the SLOA process, up to and including the proposal and implementation of curricular changes, as a body of the whole. Discussions on curricular assessment are taken up via regular agenda item at the beginning of each fall, subsequent to the receipt and compilation of exit surveys.