

**SELF-ASSESSMENT  
SUMMARY OF GOALS AND ACTIVITIES  
NCSU – PHYSICS**

**Condition #1:** *The right people apply for doctoral study.*

**Condition #2:** *The right applicants are admitted as doctoral students*

**Condition #3:** *Students and faculty form productive working relationships*

**Condition #4:** *Students experience social support from fellow students*

Conditions	Goals /Activities	Timeline
#1.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revamp Physics Department website.</li> <li>2. Increase proportion of highly qualified foreign student applicants. /Target India. Travel to India (recruiting proposal is pending with Graduate School).</li> <li>3. Keep “pipeline” to China well functioning. / i) Maintain existing contacts, ii) use present Chinese graduate students as recruiting agents.</li> <li>4. Increase visibility in Eastern Europe. / Utilize the NCSU Prag Summer School as recruiting platform</li> </ol> <p><i>NB: Many different activities have been tried in the past to improve the US applicant pool, but without measurable success. In contrast, clear strategies have been identified for international students.</i></p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>Spring 2007</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Summer 2007</p>
#2.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain success rate with students who visit. (This is our best hook) / have well organized visits with “lavish attention”, i.e. with lots of interaction of the prospect with present NCSU faculty and NCSU students.</li> <li>2. Increase success rate with highly qualified US students. (Many of the best US applicants go elsewhere.) / DGP will call all excellent US applicants to persuade them to at least visit .</li> <li>3. Eliminate admission of marginal students. / Get more extensive input from key instructors and senior research leaders during selection process. Get help from present foreign students to screen foreign applicant’s aptitudes and attitudes.</li> </ol>	<p>Each spring</p> <p>Spring 2007</p> <p>Spring 2007</p>
#3.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote a culture of “urgency”, merit, excellence and high expectations. / i) Series of informal presentations/discussion to point out opportunities, excellence of faculty/research, and expectations. ii) Do not assign research credits without meaningful performance for these credits. Eliminate S as default grade for these credits.</li> <li>2. Improve formality of Advisor/Student relationship.</li> </ol>	<p>Fall 2007</p> <p>Fall 2007 until</p>

	<p>/ Make sure “Plan of Work” gets done as early as possible. Encourage prelim oral exam to be done as soon as possible.</p> <p>3. Improve “free agency market place” to match student and faculty interests. / Use some of the Pizza Lunches to have “recruitment presentations” by faculty members in need of/search for student for RAs. Have a web-based “clearing house” to match students with faculty.</p> <p>4. Responsibly manage admitted students. / Use a mix of carrots and tough love. Terminate failing students faster. Press to get preliminary exams scheduled earlier. Make sure plan of work is in place early. Eliminate S as default grade for research credits. Manage troubled students proactively rather than reactively</p>	<p>backlog is eliminated</p> <p>Fall 2007</p> <p>Fall 2007 until backlog is eliminated</p>
#4.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue Pizza Lunches each Monday</li> <li>2. Continue “Pig Picking” at the very beginning each Fall semester at Department Head’s Home</li> <li>3. Continue Shrimp Boil each Fall</li> <li>4. Continue Coffey and Tea before Colloquium</li> </ol>	

**Comment:** There is an overriding condition and goal in our Department that touches and impacts all four categories. During the last 10-15 years, the quality of the faculty has improved much faster than the quality of the students. The primary goal will thus be to narrow the resulting gap in capabilities, expectations and efforts.