# GUIDELINES FOR SPEAKERS

*Graduate Student Seminar:*

**Foundations and Frontiers of Physics**

1. Your talk should be about 60 minutes long.

2. Your talk should be much more informal than the departmental colloquia and group research seminars.

3. The ideal that we are aiming for is something like the talk you would give to a first-year grad student visiting your office to find out about the physics of your research area. This means a heavy emphasis on the blackboard and lots of interaction with the students, and little or no use of traditional presentation aids such as PowerPoint, which tend to put a barrier between the students and the speaker. This kind of talk will require less preparation in the conventional sense (no preparation of viewgraphs), but a lot of thought as to how to best convey the basic concepts and a feel for doing research in your field.

4. Begin by speaking for 10-15 minutes about the "human side" of your work. For instance, you might talk about your experiences as a graduate student, how you came to be involved in the field of your research, and/or experiences that were important to you in your development as a physicist. Please don't ignore this part. It is an important aspect of the perspective we are trying to offer the students.

5. Assume no background beyond an undergraduate education in physics. The audience consists almost entirely of the first year graduate students.

6. Concentrate on the fundamentals of your topic, at a truly introductory level. Attempt to give a "feel for the physics" with the use of elementary arguments, analogies, and back-of-the envelope calculations. Discuss the kind of order-of-magnitude estimates that are relevant to research in your field.

7. Try to convey the flavor of current research in your topic. However, please do not consider your own research as the primary focus of the seminar.

8. Encourage questions.

9. Please plan to stay if possible after your talk so that further, informal, discussion can take place.