Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.

Automatic Consent

1. The minutes of September 13, 2019 were approved as a matter of automatic consent.

Approvals:

2. Dean Karpus introduced Associate Dean Parmesh Ramanathan from the Graduate School who presented a request to discontinue the Psychology MA effective Fall 2020. The Program is not used and has no students enrolled.

   Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the discontinuation of Psychology MA effective Fall 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Dean Karpus introduced Professor Tom Dubois Chair of the Department of German, Nordic and Slavic, who presented a request to reopen the Doctoral Minor in Folklore effective Fall 2020. The Folklore program was closed for reorganization and was moved to the Department of German, Nordic and Slavic. Each student will have an individual plan to define what courses will qualify for the minor based on their goals. Dubois responded to GFEC questions regarding the number of credits required and programming expectations,

   Motion: Moved and seconded to reopen the Doctoral Minor in Folklore effective Fall 2020. The motion passed with one opposition.

Program Review Response

4. Associate Dean Parmesh Ramanathan presented a program response to the MS Biotechnology Program Review. The response addressed concerns regarding the number of applicants, the need for a succession plan, and the structure of the lab experience.
Program Reviews

5. GFEC member Professor Yu Hen Hu presented the Institutional 10-Year Program Review of the MS, PhD, Doctoral Minor in Horticulture in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Hu noted strengths of the program include a strong partnership with the USDA providing federally supported faculty positions, high quality research and teaching facilities, assistant professors have extension appointments, and positive climate among staff and students.

The review committee’s main concern is the small size of the program. They recommended several strategies for increasing enrollment such as finding opportunities to attract students and connect employers with future potential employees, using the quality of the facilities (Allen Centennial Garden and the DC Smith Greenhouse) as recruiting tools, developing a horticulture seminar series, and support of the Department’s plan to restructure and redesign the MS Horticulture program. GFEC discussed the possibility of discontinuing the Doctoral Minor, as it does not have any students. Hu responded to GFEC questions regarding the potential of combining PhD programs and the relationship between various graduate programs and academic departments. GFEC recommended the Graduate School request additional information from the program regarding reasons for continuing the program, given its very small enrollment and degrees awarded.

6. GFEC member Associate Professor Lara Collier presented the Institutional 10-Year Program Review of the MS, PhD in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The committee did not review the Doctoral Minor. However, Professor Collier noted that there are currently no students in the Doctoral Minor and it has not been active. Collier noted strengths of the program include the enthusiasm and passion exhibited among students and faculty, engaged alumni, excellent post-graduate employment prospects, a reputation as a highly respected program, and positive student engagement through the creation of a graduate student council.

Collier discussed review committee recommendations, including the continued development of an assessment plan that creates uniformity among exams, uniform stipends among RAs, examination of low enrollment, finding opportunities to partner with other programs, and encouraging all programs to holding yearly committee meetings.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional 10-Year Review of the MS, PhD, Doctoral Minor in Horticulture in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The motion passed with one abstention.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional 10-Year Review of the MS, PhD, in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The motion passed unanimously.

7. GFEC member Associate Professor Christa Olson presented the Institutional 10-Year Program Review of the PhD and Doctoral Minor in Second Language Acquisition (SLA) in the College of Letters and Science. Olson noted strengths of the program include innovative and intentional learning objectives and assessment, a sense of community within the program, service as an interdisciplinary intellectual hub, and attraction of students through early faculty investment.

Olson discussed review committee recommendations, including addressing a field-wide challenge of attracting targeted minority groups and ongoing effort to support students
including funding and time-to-degree. The program does not have a department home, which causes challenges and complications. GFEC discussed recommendations from the review committee regarding different ways of funding students in the program such as encouraging the College of Letters and Science to work with other departments/programs to set aside TA slots for SLA or moving the program into Languages Sciences or other departments where TA funding is more likely to be available.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional 10-Year Review of the PhD and Doctoral Minor in Second Language Acquisition in the College of Letters and Science. The motion passed unanimously.

**Three-Year Check Ins**

8. Associate Dean Parmesh Ramanathan presented the three-year check in of the Named Option resource and Energy Demand Analysis (REDA) in MS Agricultural and Applied Economics. The GFEC noted that there have been academic enhancements to the curriculum and that REDA continues to struggle to meet enrollment expectations.

9. Associate Dean Parmesh Ramanathan presented the three-year check in for the Named Option Environmental Engineering in MEng Civil and Environmental Engineering. The GFEC noted that there have been academic enhancements to the curriculum. The program should engage its external advisory committee to develop a strategy for enrollment increases.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned by Dean William Karpus.