The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm. The February, 2020 minutes were approved as distributed. Professor Dorothee Ostmeier noted that the minutes did not mention the inclusion of an ethics component in the Bioengineering proposal, but ultimately that component was included in the final proposal.

**Bioengineering - New PhD Program**

Associate Dean, Andy Karduna, reopened discussion of this topic and informed the Council of the proposal’s current status in the approval process. He states that the proposal is currently under review by CAS CC and that they will reach their decision by the end of the week. CAS CC does not expect any objections to the proposal, and if no objections are presented, the Grad Council may go ahead and assume that the proposal has been approved. Andy also mentioned than an email from Melanie Muenzer, Associate Vice President and Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives, indicated that HECC confirmed that an external review is not required.

Jim Hutchison and Nathan Jacobs from the Knight Campus joined the meeting to answer any final questions the Council may have. Professor Ihab Elzeyadi expressed concern about an engineering degree being granted by a College of Arts and Sciences, rather than by a College of Engineering. He is worried that this could impact the credentials of that degree in the work force since hiring departments like to see applicants from a with a degree from a College of Engineering. Both Jim and Nathan confirmed that the degree will show as being from both UO’s College of Arts and Science and from OSU’s College of Engineering. Jim also explained that for recruiting purposes, this degree is being housed in CAS only for the short term, and that the future goal is to make the program more engineering based and grant the degree through the Knight Campus.

Professor Ostmeier questioned why other science departments (such as chemistry, biochemistry, and physics), who have expressed interest in collaborating with the Bioengineering program, are not mentioned in the proposal as collaborators. Several Council members pointed out that collaborations are in fact taking place but are apparently being done informally.

Professor Guenza wondered whether or not the courses listed in the proposal are final, or if additional courses will be added to the list later on. Nathan explained that the courses listed are not an exhaustive list, but that they were meant to be examples of electives appropriate to the program. He and Jim both noted that because Bioengineering is very broad, most of the coursework are electives which allows students to choose areas of study specific to their type of research, and that core courses will all be in Bioengineering. Nathan will work on establishing some lines of communications so that new courses can be made known to students.
Nathan and Jim both departed the Council meeting. Professor Elzeyadi mentioned that these types of degrees are increasing in popularity and urges that a framework be developed so that the process for creating the program remains consistent.

Professor Jeremy Piger motioned to approve the proposal for the new PhD program in Bioengineering. Professor Burke Hendrix seconded the motion and the rest of the Council were in agreement.

**Communication and Media Studies – Name Change**

SOJC has submitted a proposal to change its MA, MS, and PhD program names from "Media Studies" to "Communication and Media Studies." Professor Robin Clement pointed out that many of the courses listed in the new proposals still use only use "media studies" in the titles rather than including the term "communication." Council member and Assistant Professor, Autumn Shafer, volunteered to serve as a representative from SOJC, and responded by stating that faculty were more concerned with the larger program name change rather than individual courses. She explained that the program has evolved over the years to include more individuals from a social science background, and by adding the word "communication" to the title it assumes a broader realm of study, believed to be more beneficial for PhD recruitment.

Professor Piger motioned to approve the proposal for the program name change. Huaxin Lin seconded the motion, and the Council all approved.

**Folklore and Public Culture Specialization**

Professor Ostmeier opened discussion on the proposal for this new specialization. She is in support of it and believes in the strong connection that folklore has to many areas of study, and that it links students from diverse backgrounds. The specialization would also look great on the transcripts of students studying subjects such as anthropology, romance languages, history, etc.

Professor Piger motioned to approve the proposal for the new specialization, Huaxin Lin seconded the motion. The Council were all in agreement.

Professor Francis White, however, gave the strong recommendation that they begin the regularization process for the required courses listed in the proposal.

The Council adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,