**EGU Meeting Agenda MInutes**

**October 9, 2020**

**4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

[**https://arizona.zoom.us/j/96754693926**](https://arizona.zoom.us/j/96754693926)

**Password:** 363653

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| **Officers Present:** | Claire, Martin, Colleen, Marisa, Sovay, Alyx, Hongni, Analeigh, Josie, Ruixue, Kelli, Lauren, Leah, Eric, Hannah |
| **Visitors Present:** | Lana |

**AGENDA:**

1. Rep reports, one after another without discussion if possible so that we can get through every report
2. Co-chair reports
3. Circle back to everything with comments and questions about reports
4. List of projects at end of document: Most of us have decided on the projects we will work on and have formed small committees around those. Are there other projects that need to be added, too? Can each small committee report on timelines, decisions they have made about their projects.

**Co-Chair Discussion Items (Sovay and Martin)**

**Spam issue: how can we address this?**

The EGU Co-Chair email is separate from the Arizona system for protection, but this means now that the emails go straight to spam, being out of the system. Does anyone have a solution that maintains our independence from the UA system but also promotes communication?

**Notes from meeting with Shelley (Martin)**

* In terms of extensions, benchmarks to consider:
* **Late January**: how many enrolled in Spring term; what is the comparison of melt/attrition from F20-Spr21 compared to our normal percentage?
* **Late March**: how many graduate students will be exiting the programs (graduates, those who have finished their funding, and those who have found funding elsewhere and/or are leaving)
* **April & May**:
  + Number of first-year students admitted
  + Number of first-year students signed up for orientation
  + Status of medical research with COVID19
* **Late July**: number of first-year student enrolled
* With this in mind, extensions would perhaps be announced in July
* Semesterly Updates:
  + Fall: Everyone returning was supposed to submit feedback (submit cover sheet/ reflection on TCEs/SCSs
  + Spring: portfolio
  + For both fall & spring this year:, about 3-4 general questions, 1 open-ended question (shorter, condensed, less work).
    - WP has to do something, each semester there is a check-in with Graduate College, space for productive reflection
* Expectations for Spring are similar to how classes worked this semester

**Notes from meeting with Aurelie (Sovay)**

* Aurelie is optimistic (but not certain for obvious reasons) that all current grad students will maintain funding. Extensions are very unlikely but not impossible.

**Notes from Council meeting (Sovay)**

* No news. Faculty mostly discussing implications of no new admits. Lit program, for one, will be able to offer only 1-2 grad seminars next AY. Yikes.
  + Implications? Crossover between programs may occur, but we just don’t know.

**Discussion items from Reps**

* Secretary (Claire):
  + Approving minutes from 9/25
  + No new reports. All approved minutes can be found on the EGU page [here](https://english.arizona.edu/english-graduate-union).
* First-Year (Josie):
  + Still in collaboration with Ruixue on first-year social events, the first event not yet scheduled.
* EDI (Alyx and Claire):
  + 10/1 Meeting: discussed EDI position, AIME liaisonship, and possible revisions to the position
  + Alyx met with AIME committee on 9/28 to discuss textbook survey results
    - low response; discussed factors affecting results--difficulty getting access to grad list, instructors reported explicit interference from Shelley (don’t take survey), time constraints due to “that time of the semester”
      * The plan is to make this a continual conversation every semester, so check for updates/survey in the spring
    - Aurelie’s retaliation statement is focused on redefining AIME’s relationship to the department writ large as a support resource for maintaining a safe work environment; statement has been put forth to council for vote; results of vote pending
    - recommendation to revisit question of drafting retaliation statement specifically for grad students and who needs to be involved (Hannah)
    - potential personal project to increase communications between EGU and AIME(?)
    - Pro-Tip from 9/28 Meeting: When meeting one-on-one with Shelley, AIME members recommend requesting an Ombudsman be present to monitor and potentially facilitate communications; be mindful Ombuds office is busy (services all academic departments) so *send request to office at least one month before scheduled meeting w/ Shelley*
      * <https://ombuds.arizona.edu/>
      * We are reminded that Aurelie has also offered off-hand to be the third party in meetings, so consider looping her into conversations if you want.
* WriPACA (Leah, Lauren, Marisa):
  + General:
    - Trying to make the iFWE more similar to the FWE and give some international students the same options (can join 101A, 101, or 109H rather than only 106/107)
    - Trying to find money to fund prizes for WP Student Writing Awards, might create a standing subcommittee that handles National Day on Writing and the student awards
  + Bylaws (Leah):
    - Focusing on voting representation model first
    - Going to try to present by-laws revisions to WriPACA in sections (not voting on a complete draft all at once at first)
  + Assessment (Marisa):
    - Currently running a portfolio assessment to gauge student engagement during SP 2020 to help WPAs determine how well the Writing Program supported the shift to remote learning and teaching.
    - We’re meeting next week (Friday)
  + Curriculum (Lauren Harvey):
    - Have not met since last EGU meeting
    - Next meeting: October 20 2-3:15pm
* CW (Hannah): CW is not accepting any applications in light of the lack of new cohort funding - the goal is to remain fully funded and not to present a deceptive front.
* EAL (Eric): no GATs in incoming cohort raises questions of what this means for current cohort funding. There is also worry about international students (course load and retention) and a concern of inconsistent teachers for next semester.
  + A certification program for new MA degree in works
* RCTE (Analeigh): no incoming cohort (Jane Zavisca [SBS Assoc. Dean] has been slow on communicating details to Heads & Directors); Analeigh will be helping Cristina create materials explaining this to put on the website
* Lit (Casey): **Absent.** No university-funded Grads in incoming cohort (aka zero-admit, like we thought). Discussion on the table about how to recruit self-funded grads via a) military or b) careered professionals/alumni looking for a higher degree; HOWEVER--there is (supposedly) absolutely no immediate threat to current GAT-ships, and our original contracts will be honored (Lynda is prepared to fight tooth and nail to ensure this--her words), but there is per university mandate absolutely no guaranteed extension funding. Personal support (offered to anyone in Engl. Dept.) from Lynda & Lit Fac is guaranteed.
  + Questions/concerns/existential despair about time to degree? Lynda wants to hear from you.
* SLAT (Hongni): Student funding issue was discussed in the last SLAT ExCo meeting. Basically, current students working in WP will not be affected. The funding promised in students’ offer letters still hold, although extensions may be hard to fill.
  + Question: Do we still have teaching reductions for students who are taking Comps under the current circumstances? Reach out to Shelley, Aurelie, Monica de Soto Vega and also Debbie & Kelley.
* GPSC (Kelli):
  + They are organizing “on the hill” lobbying event in digital setting
  + Organizing free transportation students to the polls on campus on election day
  + Wanting to meet with the union (united campus workers 7065)
  + There are concerns about those graduating in December not getting enough advising and support, especially in business and opt. sciences. Asking grad college for more virtual events and 1-on-1 advising.
  + Please sign this if you have not. I need 2 more signatures. <https://uarizona.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8H8cYMK46op9X9j>
    - Sovay offers to send this out to English grad list-serv at large if we cannot generate signatures in EGU
  + In the hopeful event that Kelli gets the signatures, please communicate concerns to her for discussion in GPSC
    - A point is brought to the meeting about telling GPSC about the cohort crisis and the textbook snafu.
* Lit Grad Curriculum (Casey): A LOT going on here - I can touch on this next meeting since I’ll be absent today.
  + Aurelie has requested that both RCTE and Lit programs discuss the prospect of combining the programs into a “Big PhD” with distinct tracks/certificates, but with merged programs (i.e., the PhD would now be just an English PhD, but students could determine RCTE/Lit tracks).
    - Currently only in the “what if”/brainstorming stage, but increased pressure from SBS to get into talks. Lit Faculty seems *very resistant*.
    - Directly would determine # of admits; 10 or fewer for the whole department, rather than 8-10 per program.
    - Wouldn’t necessarily help dissuade SBS-level concerns about viability of dept./doesn’t necessarily make the dept. more valuable in the eyes of admin.
    - Several other possible risks; “why should we treat you like two programs if you’re actually one?” attitude from admin, “Course Proliferation” (i.e. the admin assuming that a student taking Engl 596 more than once is just learning the same material over and over), lack of clarity about what this would look like/mean for current grads.
    - Possible pros: Would mean we didn’t have to fight over already-limited resources with one another; a potential way to hold on to valuable teaching experience that grads get in the Writing Program (fewer GAT-ships to fund); increases grad “marketability” because we are automatically more interdisciplinary.
  + Current triage focus is on in house MA-Level grads--they have the most immediate pressure to stay on track in their curriculum.
    - Next Fac. Meeting (10/16): Discussing the elimination of language requirements for literature grad students. (Nothing decided yet, but that’s the proposed topic of discussion).
* Undergrad Curriculum (Colleen): Next meeting is October 16th (no news right now!)
* Social Chair (Ruixue): Currently working with Josie on the first-year grad gathering. We are working on the survey results. Will soon send out invitations after having a more detailed plan of activities.
  + Perhaps 10/23
  + Perhaps a consideration: How can we do asynchronous “chill”/social events?

**Projects/Tasks**

* *Are we happy with how EGU is operating/organized?*
  + Constitution Revision
    - Definition of roles (every member of EGU)
    - Goals of project: a transparent, useful document that guides EGU action going forward and matches the needs and structure of the English graduate program.
      * “Coalition” instead of “union”?
      * Compensation for co-chairs + the way in which that gets accomplished with department head and business office (Sovay)
      * Considering [Stefan’s proposed revisions](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oGHhaqpTmQjBw_L5qkX5TDdVx5PNQyFh/view?usp=sharing) or starting from scratch.
        + This is likely a longer project than an academic year

Hannah

Marisa

Kelli

Casey

Alyx

* + - Things to consider: consolidating positions, ramifications of lower numbers next year
* Finish/continue working on new grad student guide
  + Create list of resources for new graduate students
  + The goal is to finish the guide by the end of the semester, as it is almost done.
    - Colleen--
    - Leah -
    - Claire -
    - Hongni -
  + Suggestion: communicate with Constitution committee about duties in keeping this up to date.
* Archival work to include on our website on the English department page?
  + Possibly linked in the job of secretary
  + Archiving past notes, past initiatives, past documents (like the emails) as well as current ones.
  + Independent website? (wix, blogspot, etc)
* A list of last year’s projects
  + From this list, the most pertinent seem to be the work on the constitution, retaining members, and **Preceptorship complaints**. All others are either moot (such as keeping course caps or travel grants) or already underway (such as hiring processes).

**Conversation:**

* GAT Funding
  + Are current GATs affected by the changes?
    - Aurelie is generally confident in current students remaining funded, but cannot be certain for sure as there have been many bait-and-switches in this whole affair.
    - Our contracts are through the WP and usually have a set number of years in the text agreement.
      * A distinction between NOAs and contract is made (those with questions should reference notes from .
    - Extensions are highly unlikely.
    - Since WP holds the contracts, there is more equality between all programs (so it is more unlikely that a program would be cut - there should be parity across programs)
      * The situation might be similar to CTL cuts in the spring
  + Does SLAT still have teaching reductions for students who are taking Comps under the current circumstances?
    - Supposedly 2:1 funding holds for the future.
    - Monica de Soto Vega would be the person to ask as well as your program administrator.
* Certification
  + This practice can generate money and funding as starting, so more may pop up as things progress.
  + Certificate(s) appear to be focused as interdisciplinary within the English program
  + Many still developing these programs.
* Application Process
  + To answer a question, it seems most programs are intending to publish the news about the lack of a cohort on program pages
  + Additionally, the option to start a new application has been greyed out in software, according to Analeigh.
  + All programs reps are recommended to communicate to take off the “Apply Here” button on program pages

**Questions:**

**New Concerns:**

**Going Forward:**

* Continue making clear our value to the university and to make us more visible on campus

**More Ways to Get Involved:**

* CAJUArizona (on Instagram under this tag)
* Attend Department Meetings
* Attend Open Hour meetings
  + English & WP Open Meetings
    - Fridays (<https://arizona.zoom.us/j/94211011308>)
      * 1:30pm-2:30pm: 9/18
      * 3:00pm-4:00pm: 9/11, 10/9, 11/6, 11/20