**EGU Meeting Agenda**

November 12th, 2021

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

[**https://zoom.us/j/95266234904?pwd=UHVhcHhrM0o1bEYxQ2M5Y2xCUmNYZz09**](https://zoom.us/j/95266234904?pwd=UHVhcHhrM0o1bEYxQ2M5Y2xCUmNYZz09)

**Password:** 3ngGr@dz

| **Officers Present:** | Claire, Leah, Jazzie, Alyx, Hannah Issac, Hannah Rego, Martin, Kelli, Mary, Leah, Janelle, Caleb, |
| --- | --- |
| **Visitors Present:**  |  |

**AGENDA:**

[**Online Access Statement**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V8OfejnJW0g8C-6iII3dWExyIHhdQNsl/view?usp=sharing) (template provided by the UA Disability Cultural Center)

* Exist in the space in whatever ways are most comfortable to you
* Please state your name when speaking to assist the captioner (e.g., “Alyx is speaking”)
* Allow others to fully finish their thoughts before beginning to speak

**\*\*Reminder: Final meeting for FA 2021 is December 3rd!**

**Co-Chair Discussion Items (Hannah R. & Alyx):**

1. Alyx
	1. last dept. meeting and EGU/WP meeting for FA 2021 are 12/3 and 12/7 respectively; if you have any questions or concerns you’d like for me to bring to these spaces, please let me know!
	2. attended EGU/WP meeting w/ Shelley on 11/2
		1. confirmed $20k “base salary” (before taxes and fees)
			1. recommended compiling questions about international student fees to send to Bridget
			2. For specific questions about salary situations, speak with Bridget individually
		2. SLAT isn’t getting “cut” or removed from English dept.
			1. possible lines for WP GAT positions reduced for all programs; PDs get this information from meetings with College and Provost
			2. speak with PDs for information and individual concerns
		3. SP 2022 course modality breakdown
			1. primarily in-person, limited online asynchronous and live online
			2. no new or additional support for online instruction; similar plan for remote learning migration (if necessary)
			3. encourages use of shared PDC curriculum in the event of remote learning migration
		4. agreed to remove professional development reflection from WP portfolio requirements
			1. TA Conversations form has space for this component
			2. completing a professional development activity still required
	3. attended Provost/WP meeting on 11/10
		1. Folks responses to EGU questions
			1. “We’ve had missteps but we’ve come through the pandemic better than some other institutions”
			2. Outbreak notification rationale:
				1. previous issues with “unverified” information; students “self-diagnosed COVID symptoms without further testing”
				2. data shows classrooms aren’t “high-risk for COVID contraction,” students are more high-risk “when they’re out partying”
				3. having counternarratives to low-risk classroom contraction wasn’t good for UA’s public health image
			3. COVID data reporting accuracy:
				1. data is “incredibly accurate” and “easily interpretable,” but keep in mind data isn’t complete
				2. regularly sharing data with PAC 12; different political realities due to different responses
				3. concentrated efforts to make testing as easy as possible, averaging 600-1000 tests/day; issue with “oversampling the symptomatics”
				4. “students are ridiculously resilient”/“resilient age group”
				5. recommends reviewing to look at Pima County, Arizona, and national data to put UA cases in perspective; “similar trends, but different outcomes”
			4. Takeaway testing shift rationale:
				1. “convenient and people love them”
				2. recommends getting tested 2x/week
		2. Questions about Online Response
			1. addressing the need to serve students, low student engagement, and incorporate live online
				1. blending live-online w/ in-person modalities “created more pain”/“more than [UA] could manage” because students relied on UA to provide quiet spaces for live-online courses
				2. data urgently needed to determine if students are disengaged from one course or two, or all courses; in the case of the latter, resources are available to address material concerns in limited capacity
				3. WP [and all course-related programs] would be responsible for collecting data for struggling students
			2. Existential concern: “unis that are 100% online can’t charge the kind of tuition we do for rich campus culture, and thus can’t pay their faculty as well as non-online unis do”
				1. “70-80% of students want online modality”
				2. “20-30% of students want in-person, which are largely first gen or low income students facing internet accessibility issues, food and housing insecurity, and other home safety concerns”
				3. claims students won’t pay tuition at the rates they do now because if campus became completely online
		3. Course Caps
			1. Folks “understands literature of small course sizes” but won’t endorse or allow for lower course caps for any program; “We need to make payroll”
			2. recognizes “faculty and student challenges, but institution is also facing challenges”; living off tuition revenue means small class sizes are now “a luxury”
			3. “Are there other ways we can ease the pressure and workload for faculty?”; “we” need to think collectively and creatively to help faculty deal with larger class sizes”
			4. Folks gave an example of “creative thinking” as increasing number of paid grad student graders, not thinking about grad students as faculty as well (instructors of record)
		4. Low Morale for Instructors
			1. “morale at an all-time low is not universally true” as “some have been energized by what’s happened to them”
			2. recommends instructors “recognize that your lived experience is not the same”
			3. Instructor Autonomy
				1. data suggests centralized protocols help students focus on engaging with course content
				2. “Instructor autonomy drives students absolutely nuts”
				3. “Does instructor autonomy make you feel good or does it help your students?”
		5. Folks suggested holding separate session for GATs, but it’s unclear whether or not she was being serious
			1. asked about the “Union” part of our organization name, as she “wouldn’t be allowed to talk to us if we were a union”
2. Hannah
	1. Council meeting 11/5
		1. Discussion centered around the idea of English migrating to the College of Humanities
			1. This discussion was spurred by Provost Folks. Cristina Ramirez’s report: “Provost asked Acting Chair to “take the temperature” of the department about the idea of English returning to the College of Humanities
				1. Acting Chair shared the question of moving the unit to CoH w/ the PDs
				2. Acting Chair shared w/ the PDs that Provost Folks acknowledged she had already had some conversation about this possibility w/ AP Durand, Dean of CoH
				3. Acting Chair reports to Council that PDs are not in favor of such a move
				4. Acting Chair notes that she reported the lack of interest from English PDs to Provost Folks and notes that there have been no conversations on this topic since”
			2. More from the Council meeting minutes:
				1. “Acting Chair asked Provost to explore possibility of gains to English that would accrue as part of such a move. Provost offered the following:

Investments in graduate programs??

Investments in Staff Hires

Commitment to interdisciplinary conversations??

Investments in equatizing salaries for CoH faculty to level of incoming SBS faculty compensation

* + - * 1. Some members suggest we could open this conversation again by taking it to the full faculty
				2. Member suggests we should have some articulation of Provost offers in writing before taking this to the full faculty
				3. **Member suggests we might ask for specificity on how such a move would improve or stabilize graduate funding. For example, we might ask for specificity on how the temp teaching budget gets allocated in CoH AND how we might develop curricular innovations to grow our share of the temp teaching budget to fund grad students.**
				4. Member offers theory that the motivation for the Provost proposal is to create disciplinary groupings that make sense, particularly at the moment where a search for a new SBS Dean will be starting. Member notes that renaming SBS may address some of these concerns about disciplinary alignment.”
			1. Essentially, **no one but the Provost seems interested in English migrating to College of Humanities.** I can share the rest of the Council minutes with you all if you want, but Council is meeting again on 11/19 to discuss this further. Provost Folks will attend part of the meeting to ask/answer questions.

**Rep Reports**

* Secretary (Jazzie):
	+ Submitted meeting minutes to EGU site :)
* EDI (Claire & Caleb):
	+ AIME meets 11/15 - if we have items to bring to them, let us know.
	+ The Conflict Resolution packet that we voted on is ready to be uploaded - where on the EGU webpages should we put it?
* WPC
	+ By Laws (Leah):
		- Almost done with the bylaws voting process! I think they are going to pass, but we will know for sure by next week.
		- [ACTION] If you are a WP rep and haven’t voted yet, please try to do that today!
	+ Difference & Inequality (Janelle):
		- Working on D&I climate study; any input on graduate student working conditions? Please comment or email me at janellecapwell@email.arizona.edu with any input
	+ Curriculum & Instructional Materials (Sean):
	+ Assessment (Anuj):
		- Portfolio teaching workshops happened last week.
		- The reading of portfolios from 2020-2021 is now complete.
		- The data analysis committee is meeting this week to analyze that data.
		- Based on that analysis, we will prepare a report on curricular recommendations by end of December 2021 and share with the Director of WP.
	+ Awards (Thir):
* CW (Dure):
* EAL (Eric):
* LIT (Mary):
	+ Regarding the provost’s proposal to move English to the College of Humanities (and out of SBS): the literature faculty is essentially like everybody else in that they have a lot of questions but no answers at this point. The literature faculty did want to insist on getting (in writing) whatever information Liesl can give them *before* the department meets with her since any discussion at this point would otherwise be messy and speculative.
* RCTE (Martin):
	+ None of the faculty showed up besides Cristina, not sure what the next meeting will be about. Please let me know if there are any RCTE concerns to bring up!
* SLAT (Amable):
* Lit Grad Curriculum (Mary):
* Undergrad Curriculum (Hannah I.):
	+ No news since our last meeting. UGCC next meets on 18 November at 2:00 PM; if there’s anything you’d like for me to bring up at that meeting, comment it here or email me (hannahisaac@email.arizona.edu)
* GPSC (Kelli):
	+ Yesterday was Veteran’s Day, so we did not meet. We will meet again next week.
	+ Topic: **Grad Financial Stress Conversation**
		- Time: Nov 13, 2021 02:00 PM Arizona
		- Join Zoom Meeting <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/88382229629>

* Social Chair (Mucktadir):
	+ We met for FREE coffee last Sunday. Please join us at Cartel on Broadway for FREE coffee again next Sunday the 21st (4pm)---First coffee (or tea) on the house
	+ Mucktadir (Shimon) is planning a potluck in November, like a Friend’s Giving. Email him for ideas.

**Project Reports**

* EGU Constitution Revision: Hannah R., Muktadir, Leah, & Kelli
	+ We got a lot of work done this weekend, making suggested changes to about half of the constitution! We will share it all with you when we’re finished with our first pass at changes.
	+ Most significantly, we adjusted language about ‘membership’ in order to reflect our work as an advocacy group rather than a “union.”
	+ Other changes were mostly for clarity and to shorten the document/remove extraneous language.
* EGU Archive Organization: Alyx, Claire, & Jazzie
	+ We’ve begun taking inventory of the documents in the archives this week; the next step will be consolidation
* Directory/Newsletter: Anuj, Hannah I., & Kelli
	+ Kelli - I am reevaluating my time. Some of the proposed suggestions now seem like a bit too much of a time commitment for me. Sorry!

**Projects & Tasks:**

* NEW: SP 2022 Elections
* ONGOING: Constitution Revision
* ONGOING: EGU Archive Organization

**Conversations:**

* ONGOING: Revising the title of our organization (English Graduate Union)

**Questions:**

* ONGOING: What is a good funding model? What could help us, the GATs, as the structures shift?

**New Concerns & Homework:**

* ONGOING: Remind people of travel, research and professional development funding with low-stakes application processes!
	+ [EGU Travel Awards for “official university business” travel](https://english.arizona.edu/egu-travel-fund) - $325 to cover costs of presenting work at a conference
	+ [English Graduate Student Research Fund](https://english.arizona.edu/graduate-student-research-fund) - $500 for research travel/field work. Last year, the money could be used for local research costs (including buying books, transcription software, etc.). Need clarification on whether it can be used for both this year.
	+ [GPSC Travel, Research, and Professional Development grants](https://gpsc.arizona.edu/grantsawards). Three separate applications for different types of opportunities; up to $750 for eligible research travel or research project costs, up to $1500 for eligible Professional Development costs