

EGU Meeting Agenda

February 23rd, 2024

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Meeting Link: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/86502009157>

Password: EGUgr@d234

Officers Present:	Caleb, Josh, Katya, Thais, Charlie, Leah, Larissa, Yvette
Visitors Present:	

Online Access Statement (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

Co-Chair Reports

1) (Charlie)

a) [Agenda](#)

i) WP Survey on the Textbook Materials for foundations writing courses

b) EGU elections will happen after spring break

c) The Arizona State Legislature is quickly moving forward with several bills that would undermine faculty governance and centralize authority over academic and educational activities at all three state universities. Two bills in particular, House Bill 2735 and Senate Bill 1306, aim to rewrite the existing state laws to expand the authority of the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) and University Presidents, while undermining the power of faculty at our universities. The bills are moving very quickly through the legislative process and we need to respond immediately.

d) HB 2375 specifically changes the existing statutes to eliminate faculty involvement in governance, policy, personnel, and educational activities. The proposed bill strikes from the law the role of the faculty in governance and oversight and limits faculty as consultants to the Regents on “academic and educational activities.” While the current law states that faculty “shall share responsibility for” and “shall actively participate in” academic and educational matters, the proposed bill limits faculty to only “CONSULT WITH” the Board of Regents. Moreover, this bill grants the Regents, through their delegated Presidents, the authority to approve (or disapprove) academic degrees, organizational units, faculty personnel, and educational activities at each university. The Regents will be legislatively mandated to directly manage every unit on campus, including departments, centers, institutes, colleges, and any other academic component at the university. This move strips the autonomy and authority of faculty, department heads, and deans over academic programs. Instead, both HB 2735 and SB 1306 designate that the power to “ADMINISTER” and “GOVERN” rests solely with the Regents and the Presidents. These bills

stand to undermine the foundations of shared governance and eliminate the mandates of our elected faculty bodies at our institutions (e.g. Faculty Senate).

2) (Leah)

- a) 2/16 Department Meeting (Asynchronous)
 - i) [Agenda](#)
- b) 2/23 Council Meeting
 - i) Like most units on campus, the English department has been asked to outline budgets based on 5%, 10%, and 15% cuts
 - (1) Cristina formed an ad hoc committee to help address this
 - (2) Small possibility that this review at the college level will lead to retaining our full budget or receiving more funds
 - ii) Council is continuing its work revising the department constitution and bylaws
- c) Debrief the 2/14 Teaching Tip Event
 - i) [Padlet responses](#)
 - ii) 15 folx attended in-person!
 - iii) [Do we want to plan any kind of follow-up to the event based on the responses we got?](#)
 - (1) Share Padlet link again and invite folx to continue adding and commenting on each other's posts
 - (a) Include reference to teaching talk opportunity, encourage them to add names to their posts
 - (i) Pay, CV line
 - (2) Can reach out to individual folx for teaching talks
 - (a) Could hold hybrid event in ML 453
 - (i) Potentially hold in April
 - (b) Charlie will talk to Shelley R. about how much funding we have available
 - (i) Hopefully send out invitations to speakers after spring break

Rep Reports

- Secretary (Jazzie):
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- EDI Co-Chairs:
 - EDI Co-Chair / AIME (Thais):
 - [I touched base with Professor Lempert this week. We will pick up on plans for AIME after she returns from her maternity leave!](#)
 - EDI Co-Chair / WPC Difference & Inequality Committee Co-Chair (Josh):
 - Next meeting is **Monday, February 26th at 5pm** via Zoom
 - [Zoom Link <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/8951137729>](https://arizona.zoom.us/j/8951137729)
 - If you would like to help facilitate a small group at the WP All Member meeting discussions, please let me know. It would be great to have you at the meeting on Monday!!
- Writing Program Council (WPC) Committee Co-Chairs:

- Assessment Committee (Alona):
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- Awards Committee (Grace):
 - No report!
 - **Grace is out for SWPACA!
- Curriculum & Instructional Materials Committee (Sean):
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- Professional Development Committee (Dilara):
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- Bylaws Committee (Caleb):
 - I've been tasked with asking EGU a question - **Do we want language** in the Bylaws that formalizes the EGU WPC rep voting process(es)?
 - Also working on fleshing out task force language
 - Issue: we have been having an ongoing discussion in bylaws about the fact that there is no language around "inactive" committees (ad hoc/standing) and/or whether we should codify language in the bylaws that both allows for dissolving inactive committees and also protects committees from getting stacked/dissolved by WP director/WPC
 - Next mtg 2/26 3:30pm
- GPSC Rep (Kriti):
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- Social Chair (Josh):
 - Pot Luck will be March 23rd!!
 - Still checking on sporting events



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- First-Year Rep (Thais):
 - No new news
- CW Rep (Yvette):
 - No report

- EAL Rep (Katya):
 - I was invited to attend a faculty meeting today (2/23) that was canceled. The next EAL faculty meeting will be on March 22nd, so I will hopefully have more to share then.
- LIT / Lit Grad Curriculum Rep (Larissa):
 - Thanks to everyone for sharing feedback on Slack. I summarized it and sent it on to Dr. Melillo.
 - Literature Faculty meeting summary:
 - Central is telling every college unit to give them models of budget cuts at 5, 10, and 15%. The big number is that 97.1% of SBS's unrestricted funds--that is, funds *not* tied to any outside contract like a gift or grant--are tied up in **people**: salaries for TT, CT, Grad students, and staff. Even if literature entirely cut our operations budget, a 5% cut would mean layoffs of some sort. The literature faculty discussed that at this point, rhetorical strategies simply aren't going to work. They all agreed that we cannot and will not make the cuts unless we are forced to. One faculty member pointed out that for the last 7 years the faculty have been telling them that English is "being good" with the money they have, and each year that "goodness" is not being rewarded.
 - Instead of saying back to Central that we will work with less money, literature plans to **ask for more money**, arguing that by creating the proposed literacy center we will **create revenue for the university**--something the university desperately needs and which we definitely would not be able to provide if we followed through with the proposed budget cuts. The faculty all are in agreement that such demands are simply not tenable. They do not want to lay anyone off and they do not want anyone's salaries to be reduced (and the university does not want this second option either or people will leave for other institutions).
 - Other things discussed were trying to bring more people into the Accelerated Master's Program, looking into offering the Lit MA for international students, and what some of the big contributors were to the financial crisis in the first place.
- RCTE Rep (Kelli):
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- SLAT Rep (Name):
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- Undergrad Curriculum Rep (Quinn):
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Project Reports

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Projects & Tasks:

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Conversations:

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Questions:

- ONGOING: How do we continue to maintain the care systems? How can these care systems continue to evolve going forward, and what can future care systems look like?
- 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, professional development, and other funding with low-stakes application processes!
 - [EGU Travel Awards for “official university business” travel](#) - up to \$500 to cover costs of presenting work at a conference
 - [English Graduate Student Research Fund](#) - up to \$500 for research travel/field work. Money can no longer be used for local research costs as of Spring 2022 (including buying books, transcription software, etc.)
 - [GPSC Travel, Research, and Professional Development grants](#) - 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
 - [GPSC Basic Needs Microgrant](#) - up to \$200 “to alleviate some of the financial burden students might be experiencing by helping cover healthcare, academic, hygiene, childcare, transportation, and/or housing-related essential costs;” four deadlines throughout year; awarded on first-come, first-serve basis via lottery selection