# EGU Meeting Agenda

**Date: 2/7/2020**

**Time: 4:00 PM - 5:10 PM**

**Place: 1515 E 1st Street**

**Officers Present:** Kathleen, Claire, Marisa, Dwight, Lizzy, Martin, Jason, Sally, Kelli

**Visitors:** Leah Bowshier

**1. Approve meeting minutes from 1/24/20 :** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YXzIg1n07UUHLxTF5Ec_JULqs6vmsj4IxzZkWcmfx2w/edit?usp=sharing>

**2. Rep reports:**

* Secretary (Claire): no news
* First-Year (Martin): no news
  + The question was posed as to how we get everyone together in a low-stakes way? Suggestions included a movie night at the offices, a percentage night to fundraise? (combo with the EGU night)\*\*\*
    - Amano’s? Rubio’s? Anywhere else?
    - This discussion was in regards to the RCTE handbook
* WriPACA:
  + Marisa/Leah (Strategic Planning):
    - A quick update on the Vertical Curriculum plan (101 → 200-level → into the majors)
      * This plan would make Foundational Writing a four-year track that starts general in freshman year and follows students into their majors
        + Writing Across Curriculum
      * The question was posed as to whether the curriculum was still outcomes-based or more prescriptive.
      * It is unknown whether WP instructors would be teaching all courses or mostly 100/200 courses
        + What will happen to the PTW major/classes?
        + The question is asked whether writing instructors would be required to teach writing in a discipline they have not studied (engineering, for example)
        + Lecturers would also be affected, and they have their own thoughts and opinions.
      * The plan will fall in year 4 or 5 in Strategic Plan
        + There is no hard method or strategy for how it will be implemented at this stage -- bring questions you have to these meetings and calls
      * The committee is still condensing feedback from all of last semesters’ strategic planning meetings (and expressed gratitude for all who participated last semester).
      * Meeting Tuesday (2/11) to condense and will afterwards make available in ML 361 to give feedback over the week of 2/17-2/21, as well as hopefully a digital version for feedback
  + Jason (Bylaws):
    - Jason teaches during the meetings and is sorting out a better schedule.
    - They are currently reviewing Teaching Symposium/considering major processes -- if you have strong opinions, please come to Jason with concerns (in person or email)
      * Main questions include who gets to vote in the Writing Program, for what, and to what extent?
      * For example, a question on the table is whether the program should use binding or non-binding votes (when should the outcome of the vote be binding or advisory)
        + Is the vote a law or recommendation, and when is it the one or the other?
        + A recommendation for the future is that breaking results of binding votes requires written justification by the actor
    - Ultimately, the Writing Program by-laws must accord with the English department by-laws. For example, financial transparency is against English Department by-laws, so the Writing Program by-laws cannot require financial transparency within the Writing Program
      * Ultimately, they are meant to bolster the Program’s voice in the department meetings.
    - By-laws can be found on the [website](https://english.arizona.edu/faculty-staff-resources): <https://english.arizona.edu/faculty-staff-resources>
  + Kelli (SLOs):
    - An update on the discussion of last meeting’s topics: the committee decided to bring the language forward to WriPACA instead of nitpicking language at this state
    - There is an email imminent about the motion, so pay attention and should you have feelings, thoughts, contact your voting member.
    - The Student Learning Outcomes are testable (however, the ABCs are descriptors of the outcome).
      * Do the students need to see the ABCs on the syllabus? Removing them may make the portfolios easier to students with the concise language of the SLOs
    - The feeling in the committee is to keep things simple/similar for instructors, but creating Goal 5 necessarily took 4F descriptor out and added three more (only two additional)
    - There was a desire to weave WAC/WID into the goals as well, but that is not a current concern - consider these things for next semester.
      * It might make better sense to introduce WAC/WID in a few years when this strategy gets underway
* EAL (Aleksandra): No updates because there was no meeting. Was not able to attend because of the SLAT conference.
* CW (Suyi): not present
* RCTE (Zack): No updates. Won’t be able to attend the meeting.
* Lit Grad Curriculum (Dalia): No updates. I won’t be able to make today’s meeting.
* Lit (Laura): Literature faculty met last week and discussed changing the Comps exam to take home. They’re hoping to bring it to a vote by the end of February. They will continue to discuss the exam at next week’s meeting.
* GPSC (Dwight): no report
  + The insurance for dependents and dental is yet to be brought up - the plan would perhaps be similar to the lecturers’ insurance plans
  + Next meeting is Monday (2/10)
* SLAT (Nina): SLAT Roundtable happening all day today!!
* EDI (Elizabeth & Ashley):
  + At the meeting with Aurelie (2/5), we brought up inequities in how international GTAs are taxed on the ‘award’ payment → She said this is already being worked on for future semesters. I’ll keep following-up on this.
    - Contracts must be honored for this semester, but the future is in mind and conversation
    - A reminder to read through contracts and NOAs before signing. If there are questions, Bridget may ultimately be the best resource, since Nicole is new to the office.
* Undergrad Curriculum (Sally): No news, as they have not met yet
* Social Chair (vacant)

→ There was a brief discussion as to what is the purpose of the notice of appointment. The best suggestion was that it is perhaps part of the new pay system and is a way to alert people legally about the pay shift (0.5 FTE → 0.25 FTE + fellowship)

* Discrepancies may just be a new system quirk/hiccup, but bring any questions to the business office.

**3. Co-Chair report:**

* ***ENGL Dept. Council Meeting (1/31) —***
  + Voted on Steph Brown’s track conversation (overwhelming yes). The final decision is yet to be made by the dean.
  + Nominated professors for service positions (APR and P&T committees)
  + Program Directors’ updates
  + Aurelie confirmed that the 18th-century Lit hire line is safe
  + Discussed SBS deficit and ideas for recruitment and retention
  + Tom Miller & others talked about mechanisms for holding the upper admin accountable for their “admin bloat” and mismanagement of funds
    - In short, hiring too many administrators costs, but the cuts are happening to ground-level employees and programs
* ***Meeting with Aurelie & Lizzy (2/5) —*** 
  + Discussed Co-Chair compensation (b/c EGU recruitment and retention)
    - Needs to confirm with business office
  + Discussed how the budget affects the Temp Teaching Budget, which will most likely impact undergrad courses in Lit, CW, and PTW
  + Discussed WP course caps and 2-1 as part of budget concerns; Aurelie is optimistic and believes the admin don’t want to cut either b/c they’ve been bragging about both (SBS’s reasons)
    - Recruit! Erin Whittig is heading the research behind keeping these course loads, so reach out to her if interested
    - In the next calendar year, they will need data on 2:1 course load
      * Do studies/research
      * An opening argument was that people would have the time for teacher research and do their work (requiring fewer extensions)
      * Another is that GTAs are first-line examples of English to students (having more time to dedicate to English and better training in Preceptorship would aid)
  + Brought 2-1 payment/financial aid stuff to Aurelie’s attention, esp. international student concerns
  + Discussed that there needs to be an administrative eval of preceptorship teachers that don’t rely just on TCEs. B/c GTAs are most students’ first interactions with the Dept of English, the department writ large has a stake in how well GTAs are prepared to teach in the Writing Program
  + Discussed the potential options for WP Director/Assoc. Director hiring processes, but there have been no confirmations yet

**4. Our Current Projects:**

* EGU constitution updates
* EGU recruitment and retention efforts
* Participants for WP 19-Course-Cap Task Force
* Keeping tabs on 2-1 pay updates, esp. for international GTAS
* Keeping tabs on preceptorship and other accountability issues
* Preparing ourselves for WP Director and Associate Director hiring processes (probably later this semester, over the summer, and/or into next AY)