## **EGU Meeting Agenda**

**Date:** 4/17/2020

**Time:** 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM

**Zoom Link:** <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/727922265>

0.5. Preview of Nominations for Next Semester **1**

[1. Approve meeting minutes from 4/3/20](#_tfudl3lzfrkv) **1**

[2. Representative Reports](#_hmdqqnfeiwuo) **1**

[3. Co-Chair Reports](#_qkmzh06mibqw) **2**

[4. Ongoing EGU Projects](#_xhqbi5d74pnr) **2**

[5. Email from Aurelie (4/17/20)](#_3gp0luw7oqy) **2**

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| --- | --- |
| **Officers Present:** | Dalia, Claire, Kathleen, Nina, Elizabeth, Aleksandra, Leah, Martin, Sally |
| **Visitors Present:** | Marisa |

## **0.5. Nominations for EGU Positions in AY 20-21**

A form for nominations for next academic year will be going around shortly

- all positions but Leah, Kelli, and Claire's positions are up

- Kathleen rolls off but will work with the new co-chairs

- Stefan suggested taking off the co-chair restrictions (specifically the restriction preventing people from self-nominating)

## **1. Approve meeting minutes from 4/3/20:**

Link: [**https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tsi4htL\_H3MqdcgD67MKAqASU9agEOpLha2VeJFRTLE/edit?usp=sharing**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tsi4htL_H3MqdcgD67MKAqASU9agEOpLha2VeJFRTLE/edit?usp=sharing)

Minutes were approved by show of hands.

## **2. Representative Reports:**

* Secretary (Claire): You can find past approved minutes on the EGU page [here](https://english.arizona.edu/english-graduate-union).
* First-Year (Martin): Attending the “open hour” meeting (Didn’t necessarily answer GTA concerns but was discussion on course caps, impact on marginalized students and instructors)
  + WP Awards (congratulations Leah, Kelli, and Analeigh!)
* WriPACA:
  + Leah (Strategic Plan): On pause
  + Jason (Bylaws): please check out the complete draft of the WP Bylaws: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GeDIcgLnES0qdu88uv3dQz7icb8WxAHPsmmCcwmfkuU/edit#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GeDIcgLnES0qdu88uv3dQz7icb8WxAHPsmmCcwmfkuU/edit)
    - If you have time and energy to add last-minute feedback, please do so!
  + Kelli (SLOs): no updates
    - Looking for feedback on [new draft of SLOs](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PkTdslml7YgVsSuvrbBKV-dTtHUelNyWO-QB1YUkRaw/edit?usp=sharing) by 4/27
* CW (Suyi): no updates
* EAL (Aleksandra): Mainly the faculty was expressing the same concerns everyone has right now -- funds. As lots of programs, they had to withdraw tuition reduction offers they made to incoming students. Concerns about the incoming international graduate students were expressed too. At this point the faculty said they cannot have any definite responses to any questions related to the program and funding given the current situation, both with the virus and the budget cuts.

Second year MA graduating cohort will have their final capstone presentations through VoiceThread.

* Initially offered a place to 17 students (combination with and without funding)
* Worried about the international students who accepted offers but may not be able to come in the fall
* RCTE (Zack): no updates
* Lit Grad Curriculum (Dalia): Lit students got their first and second choices of grad seminars. Something good to celebrate!
* Lit (Laura): no updates. Lit faculty are deciding whether to continue meetings via Zoom for the remainder of the term.
* GPSC (Dwight): no updates
* SLAT (Nina): no updates (not even the new director).
* EDI (Elizabeth & Ashley):
  + Ashley:
  + Elizabeth: AIME Meeting on 4/16
    - The first half of the meeting was spent compiling questions for the second half with Shelley and Aurelie
      * Lecturer concerns (pay equity, etc - these were before the furloughs and pay cuts were made public on 4/17)
        + How would these situations affect GTAs? (We now know the furloughs do not affects GTAs, so that is solved)
      * Requested better communication from admin
      * Requested qualifications for Student Emergency Fund to be changed
        + The language of the fund asks that it should be used after ALL other means are exhausted (including loans)--> this is detailed in the application and follow-up process, which is supposed to be headed by the Dean of Students office, but for some reason answers are given from other offices.
        + If you wish to push further on this issue, GSPC is likely the group to use since they are experienced in combating this sort of thing
        + Answer to last week: International students can apply to the emergency fund, but they are likely to be taxed on it like other funding
      * Discussed the manner in which the GTA offers were rescinded and suggested a rotating system for courting students if the department cannot sustain large cohorts every year.
      * Discussed applying to the Emergency Student Fund
        + Could students specify why they need the funds and approve requests based on their need? (internet, dependents, single parents, etc?)

Is there a way to do that with verification ?

* Undergrad Curriculum (Sally): No updates at this time
* Social Chair (vacant): no updates

## **3. Co-Chair Reports:**

* ***Council Meeting (4/17):***
  + We will be voting on PDs as Council soon?
  + The Writing Program Director hiring committee is meeting Monday to look at the applicants → the applications were due today (4/17)
  + Faculty concerned about how to reduce workload/labor
    - Susan wants to talk about how to make this labor visible
* ***Meeting with Shelley (4/14):*** 
  + If everything is online in the Fall, we will be using PDCs for sure → Shelley said that if anyone has an issue with this, she would be happy to talk to them about why it’s important
    - EGU discussion centered around concerns of plagiarism, constraint of grading systems, teaching autonomy, and the workload on students learning at home taking multiple courses.
    - There are, we think, administration who feel similarly about autonomy in the classroom that will help defend those rights.
    - Again, Shelley is happy to talk if you have questions (and hearing from more than the EGU Co-chair will cement that these are prevalent concerns).
    - Finally, the new WP director may be someone different in the fall, which would affect policy and decisions in unforeseen ways.
  + We don’t know yet about Fall being online, but they are working on trying to make PDCs for 101A, 106, 107, and 108
    - 101A is being piloted this summer (10 week course) but 109H is not scheduled to be piloted or designed yet, as Shelley is waiting for more information before deciding on anything concrete.
      * EGU concerns are that 109H’s workload is such that a student would be swamped with 15+ hours of work a week on top of other classes---there is a general agreement that requirements should change for the circumstances.
  + Online assessment isn’t different from in-person assessment
  + New Start has cut their classes in half; aren’t sure if they’re going to be online; has already picked the instructors
    - PDC’s are required for New Start also this year.
  + Med Start is definitely going to be online; needs another director?
  + People have already been ranked for summer online teaching . These decisions had nothing to do with TCEs or progress from this semester.
  + Course caps for summer classes might be higher than before because they are expecting higher attrition rates (from 10 students to 12 or so)
  + GTA Self-reports are used to prove to the Graduate College that we’re doing our jobs and being assessed by our employers
* ***Meeting with Aurelie (4/8):***
  + Aurelie’s main concern is keeping as many employees as possible
  + Very important that we continue looking for alternative GTA appointments outside of the WP
    - There is mention of Geography RAships and debate over help there
  + Graduate College required that the department rescind all pending graduate student admissions offers on 4/7
  + Jeff sent emails asking the PDs and staff to consider their emailing habits and be more thoughtful about repeating unnecessary emails :)))

## **4. Ongoing EGU Projects:**

See link to EGU Projects doc (started by Stefan last fall; needs to be updated): <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17UJJAqvAVNVR0bh6j4qVMR4wZixVeBlB0MHfapHL6is/edit?usp=sharing>

## **5. Email from Aurelie (4/17/20):**

Dear Department,

We’re nearing the fifth week of campus closure and heading into our last three weeks of class. This semester, we’ve had to face so many challenges collectively and individually. Please know that the health, security, and well-being of you and your loved ones are the first and only thing that actually matters. Beyond that, though, here are some updates. I will be available to chat on Zoom from 3-4:30 today, after our Department Council meeting. Here’s the link: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/98660029259>

**Furloughs:** As you saw this morning, President Robbins has announced [furloughs](https://hr.arizona.edu/FY-2020-2021-Furlough-Program) for all UA employees. What remains to work out is how our days will be impacted. As we all know, holidays and regular work hours can mean very little in our profession. We owe it to ourselves to find a prudent plan that threads the needle between serving our students and protecting ourselves.

**Graduate Programs**: On 3/31, the Graduate College and SBS requested that graduate programs halt offers of admission to those who had not already received offers. On 4/7, the Graduate College requested that any offers to graduate students that were not already accepted be rescinded. We complied with these requests as they came in. Overall, our incoming graduate class is about 20% down, though creative writing took the hardest hit.

**Fall enrollment and its impact on CT faculty and GTAs**: This is an urgent matter and one that we are working hard to deal with. At this point, enrollment numbers look bleak. To help mitigate losses to classes the Writing Program (and less so, Department) have to offer, we are actively looking for additional work opportunities for our instructors outside of the WP/Dept.

**Post-docs**: The post-doc program is suspended for next year.

**Speakers, Events, Travel Funds**: Because our discretionary spending will be diminished by a lot, we will likely need to reduce or even eliminate some of this. As soon as we know for sure, I’ll let you know.

**Promotion and tenure raises** have been confirmed as being in place.

**Online in Fall?** We do not know. It would be prudent for any faculty member who is teaching in the fall should be prepared to move to the online format. The more classes that have flexibility in that regard, the better. We do not have a university mandate on this, though, and it would be premature to make a collective move to wholesale online.

**Undergraduate Graduation**: Amazing generosity from faculty participating in the book-for-a-graduate program! Thank you everyone.

**Development letter**: I am sending an email update with a soft solicitation out to those who have supported our department in the past in the next couple of weeks. This will link to the student emergency fund but will also offer ways to help our own directly.

**Ways tenure-track faculty can help!** If you are a t-t faculty member and you are interested in voluntarily reducing your teaching for next year, the college will return funds to us to offer a new teaching opportunity to a graduate student or lecturer. As soon as I receive guidelines, I will forward on.

**Graduate Student and Part-Time Instructor Support:**

[Student Emergency Fund](https://uarizona.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eX2oNQD4G3Iv1ch)

Graduate AFAT Need-Based Award—students can search for in [Scholarship Universe](https://financialaid.arizona.edu/scholarshipuniverse)

[Part-time Instructor Aid through MLA](https://www.mla.org/Resources/Career/MLA-Grants-and-Awards/COVID-19-Emergency-Grants?utm_campaign=digestapr20non&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mlaoutreach)—need to be member for small grants

Okay, that’s it for now. We have challenges ahead, but there is at the same time A LOT of energy I’ve witnessed in my colleagues and in our amazing staff to keep moving in positive directions, despite our present difficulties. I am ready and able to work with you all and remain energized by our common goal of serving students.

Keep in touch and let me know what I can do to help.

My best, Aurelie