**EGU Meeting Agenda**

**September 11, 2020**

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

**Password:** 363653

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

**AGENDA:**

1. Rep reports, one after another without much discussion if possible so that we can get through every report
2. Co-chair reports + list of projects at end of document. Which should we tackle?
3. Circle back to everything with comments and questions

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

* Would like to give space for each Rep to say what their understanding is of their position and discuss what they see their role being.

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

* Shelley needs someone from EGU to serve on a hiring committee to fill her old position as director of online teaching.
  + - Martin has volunteered for this position
      * A request is asked to bring up the future director of online writing’s history with GTAs in the search committee
  + Martin’s meeting aside from working with the search committee is 9/14 - send any concerns and questions to him before this date please!
    - For one, the issue of Shelley’s tone in communication that continues to be perceived as condescending by many people
      * Perhaps frame it as the fact people actively disengage with her communications because of tone

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

* Sovay and Aurelie came to a decision about the EGU co-chairs being each given a $750 stipend for their year of service. Sovay is working with Aurelie to draft a contract/language to be embedded in future budget so this is a permanent part of budget. EGU co-chairs would then be issued a little contract/offer letter when they get elected.
* *Extensions: not clear how many students will need/want extensions due to COVID. We will want to keep an eye on that.*
* Dean will give a budget projection for funding graduate students “soon.”
* SBS is currently waiting for budget news of their own. They have big budget problems.
* Some folks are pushing for no graduate student admissions for next year. Yikes.
* Aurelie hopes that we can keep it to just 25% lower admission and no more of a cut.
* The dean/etc. Are not saying that they will cut funding for current grad students. Extensions will likely not happen.
* So far, it seems as though departments like math and spanish haven’t heard the same sort of threat to funding. Which is rather odd. Unclear why that is the case.
* In the medium term, what English has to do is find more opportunities for funding outside of the WP.
* As per her email, Aurelie wants us to [compile questions/concerns](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ScR8ElRXrzc8bz2gqwMyAJOjMbkhYQfQcimNc5clLCY/edit) we have that she can put into a department climate poll. Specifically about the well being/needs of grad students.
  + Please do this by the end of today (9/11/20)!

**Notes from Council meeting:**

* Advisory board for dept head and microcosm of dept (every position represented)

**Discussion items from Reps**

* Secretary (Claire):
  + Approving Minutes from 5/1/2020 ([link](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P-dlMn_VwTSDcmd4TmardMgjYgoxrz6pJzimZ1c07Bo/edit?usp=sharing))
  + Approving Minutes from 8/28/20 ([link](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14F-InoMo80vILKXf2PbVsJPdefjKvbQ4HOolyIp8Kp8/edit))
  + No new reports. All approved minutes can be found on the EGU page [here](https://english.arizona.edu/english-graduate-union).
* First-Year (Josie):
  + No news specifically
    - Could give a general first-year’s impression of the beginning of this semester
    - General feelings: welcomed! Even if Zoom feels like an impediment. Social gatherings are being formed as well.
    - Main complaint: textbook issues and accessibility therein (price, internet accessibility)
* EDI (Alyx and Claire):
  + Alyx: The Access, Inclusion, Marginalization, and Equity (AIME) committee (which I serve on as a grad rep) is putting together a textbook use survey to present to WP admin concerning the unethical practice of requiring instructors, and by extension students, to use them.
    - Trying to keep this centered out of administration
    - Is there a graduate student only listserv to share this survey? → Sovey and Martin has the ability to share
    - Anonymous survey through Google, nondisclosure (numbers reported only)
* WriPACA (Leah, Kelli, Marisa):
  + General:
    - Considering what to do about the Spring Symposium (possibly make it a shortened General Meeting, have the CLCs present, etc., instead of the usual conference style)
    - Pausing strategic plan for now
    - Open Hour Fridays at 3 - may be WriPACA time in the future
  + Strategic Plan: put on hold because of furloughs and such and is under revision
  + Bylaws (Leah): no news yet, meeting Tuesday, picking up where the group left off this spring
  + Assessment (Marisa): no news really; 9/18 is our first meeting! We’re continuing last year’s work and evaluating student portfolios.
  + Curriculum (formerly SLOs): We need a new rep because I have class during Wripaca (and the subcommittee meeting times). I reached out to Lauren Harvey who regularly attends these meetings, and she is willing/able to be the rep. How do we make the transition?
    - Lauren Harvey has now been officially added as WriPACA rep as put to a motion at the end of the meeting.
* CW (Hannah): Mostly big-picture department issues were discussed in the program meeting (summary: funding for future graduate students is uncertain; unclear whether CW is taken seriously by upper admin despite ‘CW-world’ success of our program/students; many admin don’t think grad students should even be teaching, and supposedly adjunct lecturers are actually cheaper than grad student labor; no real consensus and a lot of fear amongst faculty). no new news.
* EAL (Eric): No News
* RCTE (Analeigh):
  + There was a question at the last EGU meeting about admitting new students in Fall 21. The RCTE Director (Cristina Ramirez) says that the Graduate College has yet to make any decision on whether they will allow incoming students.
    - Meaning it isn’t in program level decisions - may be until spring until decision is announced
  + We’re working on updating the RCTE Handbook. Tom hopes to have it finished within the next few weeks; it will need to be approved by faculty before it’s sent out to students.
* Lit (Casey): No news
* GPSC (Kelli):
  + Open SBS representative position. Do we want to fill it? <https://arizona.app.box.com/v/GPSC-election-petition-forms>
    - Responsibilities include talking to the dean of the college and talking to constituencies, mostly
  + Reminder about grants available at [***https://gpsc.arizona.edu/grantsawards***](https://gpsc.arizona.edu/grantsawards)
    - There are questions about granting travel grants, giving restrictions, but the budget has *not* been cut for research grants, so go for it!
* SLAT (Hongni and Rachel): No news.
* Lit Grad Curriculum (Casey): No news
* Undergrad Curriculum (Colleen): no news, will be meeting with the committee soon
* Social Chair (Ruixue): No news
  + Perhaps a collaboration with First Year Representative?

**Projects/Tasks**

* *Are we happy with how EGU is operating/organized?*
* Results of nomination--need to fill roles. We have some doubling up going on. How do we want to handle this?
* Relevantly, we should discuss how to make EGU viable in the future? If we have a hard time filling roles, is there a way to handle this?
  + We need a list of each representative’s description/role that is easy to read so that we can link those when we hold elections so that ppl can quickly see what the position entails.
    - Combine the two literature reps into one position? SLAT?
      * SLAT is elected by program - is this something that would be useful to continue?
        + There was a discussion in chat about how SLAT representatives work in regards to ExCo and SLATSA overlap. Lauren shared some history on the reasoning behind having two representatives to split the work, and Hongni and Rachel agreed to discuss with SLATSA about whether two reps are needed.
  + Finish revising constitution
  + Reflect the possible revision of the English dept as they work to market English and its workings (GTAs as instructors of record, course loads, etc) as they make it work along with the logic of the university
* Finish/continue working on new grad student guide
  + Create list of resources for new graduate students
* Archival work to include on our website on the English department page?
* ~~Plan some sort of social event--is this possible? Probably not? Ugh. Maybe a virtual happy hour?~~ (solved)
* I am adding last year’s table of projects here, so we have some reference
  + <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17UJJAqvAVNVR0bh6j4qVMR4wZixVeBlB0MHfapHL6is/edit?usp=sharing>

**Conversation:**

* Faculty are of course dealing with their own job security and trying to convince each other (especially associate and assistant profs) to keep English relevant to the budget-makers.
  + One way is to make transparent how many different programs and sub-departments are within English
  + Remember, GTAs are expensive in tuition coverage and stipend
    - Who is making these decisions (and who do we need to impress)?
    - Can we make a change on this level? We already are questioning whether there is an incoming cohort next year (which would raise course caps and teaching load, hire more CTs, etc)
* It is shared that in the open department meeting that people advocated getting our presence more known as English GTAs (and thus this is a chance for EGU to step up and become transparent within the department)
  + What is the feasible and effective way for EGU to become useful and pertinent? Showing up in department, showing up in SBS, email bulletin -- what are the projects?

**New Concerns:**

* None addressed

**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)
  + Involved in inclusive access textbook reform, social justice at the UAz, etc
  + There is also a newly formed wall-to-wall union (for all UAz employees)
* Attend Department Meetings
* Go to Open Hour meetings (Fridays at 3pm)
  + English & WP Open Meetings
    - These are open, no agenda, meetings to allow folks to process what is going on at this point in the term/year.
  + 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
* Come to EGU!