**EGU Meeting Agenda and Minutes**

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

**Password:** 363653

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| **Officers Present:** | Claire, Sovay, Martin, Casey, Hongni, Rachel, Leah, Analeigh, Alyx, Kelli, Marisa, Hannah |
| **Visitors Present:**  | Matt, Grace, Violet, Josie |

**Meeting 1: Aug. 28, 2020**

* Greetings and Questions/Thoughts before we launch into agenda.
* 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 the Department Meeting**

Discuss highlights from department meeting Martin and Sovay attended today (8/28).

Conversation surrounding highlights:

* Current Budget
	+ Wants more transparent release of funds
	+ Enrollment is pretty much full but overall down because of a lack of instructors, according to Paul Hurh
		- Kelli concurs that it was a struggle to get students into courses towards the end of freshman orientation, especially 101A & 109H
	+ The Dean controls the budget; the thought by the admin is that programs should be self-sufficient, and as a probably result JP Jones has a lot of pressure on Shelley concerning textbook sales.
* Ashford Deal
	+ went through without consent of lots of stakeholders (faculty); reactions are being collected.
* Provost (Liesl Folks) moving to take funding from graduate programs for future cohorts
	+ The provost is not apparently interested in funding teaching in the future without giving other options for funding (thus cutting out new students)
		- Speculation occurs that Folks’ distaste of GTAs as instructor of record perhaps comes from her background in natural sciences where GTAs do not serve that role
	+ Faculty is exploring ways to protest or speak against this
	+ Honoring current contracts (so everyone here is “safe” ... supposedly)
	+ Decision is supposed to be told to faculty by October 1
	+ Extensions were not discussed
* Textbook Tensions
	+ Shelley claims ”the issue” was solved in language that vague
		- One student shares experience teaching online this summer with the PDC (raw and unfinished, ill-suited for the situation in that it was built for 7.5 weeks but was a 6 week course, enforces textbooks)
		- Textbooks were unavailable to all despite integration into the course for at least two weeks (students, instructors, all)
		- Catrina’s explanation was that it was poor timing due to textbook updates (despite last year’s mistake about subscription being one year v. 4-5 years)
	+ Another student shares experience with textbook this first week of semester
		- Opt-out page does not register process and still apparently charges students
	+ Aggregators also caused trouble because of national internet laws (would not allow access in other countries worldwide - this explains the switch to St. Martin’s Handbook)
		- This switch also negates some subscriptions that were made previously, which was resolved in a messy, fast deal
	+ Inquiry is made about financial assistance for students who cannot afford the textbooks
		- There is none; the only option is financial aid in general
		- In the past (two or three years ago), Students’ Guide was $19 but instructors were still supposed to assign another textbook. Supposedly, the cost went up because students had previously paid a ~$70 placement fee they no longer have to pay.
	+ Kelli made a request based off survey to make them cheaper (100% support from survey in that regard)
	+ Inquiry is made about whether the textbooks are a bundle or not
		- The official answer was either all or none
	+ Comment is made about how the textbooks are useful (perhaps as teacher manuals)
		- Also, remember that awards and travel money comes from the textbook sales
		- While travel was cut this year due to the pandemic, the rules changed to allow awardees to teach summer courses
	+ A reminder that opting out of using the textbook in your class will perhaps result in an email asking reasoning (see November 2019)
	+ Ultimately, this is a long-standing issue - can we do anything substantive about this?
		- Boycotting
			* What’s the magic number?
		- Trying to use the textbooks effectively? (Does anyone have them?)
		- Can we do anything before September 6?
		- The price is the most galling thing, considering the tuition and the textbooks and all else
	+ Proposal of forming an ad hoc committee working on the textbooks put forward (perhaps the formal aspect will gain more traction)

**Notes from meeting with Shelley**

* Shelley needs someone from EGU to serve on a hiring committee to fill her old position as director of online teaching.

**Notes from meeting with Aurelie**

* Aurelie wants to emphasize to graduate students (as she did in her email that she sent on the week of August 10th), that she wants them to email her whenever they have concerns or questions or even if they want to connect with her personally.
* 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.

**Discussion items from Reps**

From Claire (Secretary):

1. Approving Minutes from 5/2/2020 (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P-dlMn_VwTSDcmd4TmardMgjYgoxrz6pJzimZ1c07Bo/edit?usp=sharing>)

From Kelli (GPSC Rep):

1. Information about Campus recreation

2. Open SBS representative position

3. Reminder about grants available

From Hannah (CW Rep):

* Mostly big-picture department issues were discussed in the program meeting

**Ongoing Projects/Tasks**

* 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?
* *Are we happy with how EGU is operating/organized?*
* Vote in Colleen Kenney as Undergrad Curriculum Rep.
	+ Voted by show of hands
* Finish revising constitution
* 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.
* Finish/continue working on new grad student guide
* Plan some sort of social event--is this possible? Probably not? Ugh. Maybe a virtual happy hour?
* Archival work to include on our website on the English department page? Like how long have we been operating?
* Create list of resources for new graduate students
* Combine the two literature reps into one position?

**New Concerns:**

* Student fees ([Rec and Health](https://rec.arizona.edu/membership/student-fees))
	+ On Monday, they are opening the Rec at 25% occupancy with reservation
	+ Usually 100% online students can opt out but you cannot use Campus Health if you do (vague answers about splitting cost)
* Rec Center has an outdoor exercise space for reservation (!)
* Does opting-out of Rec fee interfere with Campus Health Insurance?
	+ “HEALTH/WELLNESS RECREATION FEE and REC BOND FEE
		- Amount: $212.50/semester and $25.00/semester (both prorated for part-time enrollment)
		- Benefits: Both of these fees are considered mandatory. These fees contribute to the improvements and maintenance of the recreational facilities and programming on campus. The first provides access to all recreation and campus health facilities on campus, the second essentially ensures improvements to the recreational buildings.
		- Opt-out: The opt-out for these fees are contingent on a student’s current residence. Students who live outside of Tucson are the only ones who can request an opt-out. The Rec lists the circumstances in which this may be possible.”
	+ The matter has been taken up by CAJUA

**More Ways to Get Involved:**

* CAJUArizona (on Instagram under this tag)
	+ Involved in inclusive access textbook reform, social justice at the UAz, etc
* Attend Department Meetings
* Come to EGU!