**EGU Meeting Agenda**

**October 23, 2020**

**4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

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

**Password:** 363653

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

**AGENDA:**

1. Rep reports, one after another without discussion if possible so that we can get through every report
2. Co-chair reports
3. Circle back to everything with comments and questions about reports
4. List of projects at end of document: Project updates and reports?

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

**Spam issue: how can we address this?**

The EGU Co-Chair email is separate from the Arizona system for protection, but this means now that the emails go straight to spam, being out of the system.

(<https://it.arizona.edu/documentation/spam-and-junk-email-rules>)

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

* No new news (next meeting will be Nov. 2nd, please let me know if there are any specific questions/topics you would like me to ask/bring up)

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

* Next meeting is Nov 5. Please email me with anything you would like me to bring up with Aurelie.

**Notes from Department Meeting (Martin)**

* Most of the discussion was surrounding collegial etiquette and how to create an atmosphere community (between Full Professors, Junior Faculty, Staff, and Graduate students)
* Ended with reviewing APR standards and potential revisions

**Discussion items from Reps**

* Secretary (Claire):
  + Last meeting’s minutes for approval ([10/9](https://docs.google.com/document/d/17EgGFkzFJxViX_i2wb4e5yNHjY43o5qz9pz5ORAlvlQ/edit?usp=sharing))
  + No new reports. All approved minutes can be found on the EGU page [here](https://english.arizona.edu/english-graduate-union).
* First-Year (Josie):
  + Hosting the Trivia Night with Ruixue at 6 tonight. Please do come!
  + Questions from 1st years about Health Insurance:
    - So, the sense I’m getting is that some first years are getting a barrage of links and would like to know if there’s a simpler way to understand this or if anyone has a simple explanation to what exactly is covered and is there anything we should be aware of that is definitely not covered.
    - This is the most helpful link we’ve gotten: <https://www.aetna.com/individuals-families/member-rights-resources/need-to-know-coronavirus/testing-treatment-information.html>
    - However there is still not so much clarity on whether all testing is covered:
      * “Aetna’s health plans do not cover serological (antibody) tests that are for purposes of: return to work or school or for general health surveillance or self-surveillance or self-diagnosis, except as required by applicable law. ”
      * “*Does Aetna’s no-cost share coverage of COVID-19 testing apply to pre-admission testing? (As of 7/13/2020)*

*“*Prior to COVID-19, testing for infectious diseases were included in the rate for surgical procedures and that policy will continue during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cost to the member will be determined by each individual health plan.”

* + - And this question specifically was asked:
      * “So if someone doesn't need to go to hospital but still needs costly medicine and testing is that covered or not? I couldn't get a sense of that.”
* EDI (Alyx and Claire):
  + Remember that if you have concerns to bring to [AIME](https://english.arizona.edu/access-inclusion-marginalization-and-equity-committee) or want one of us in meetings, we can do our best to help!
  + Alyx
    - attending AIME meeting on 10/26
    - will share with committee that EDI has two co-chairs and will ask if Claire also needs to attend AIME meetings as well
    - will also ask how open is AIME to holding meetings where other EGU officers/any graduate students can attend to voice concerns
* WriPACA (Leah, Lauren, Marisa):
  + General:
    - N/A - next meeting 11/3
  + Bylaws (Leah):
    - Still working out model for voting, as there are questions around the relationship between EGU and WriPACA, especially with EGU also making revisions to its own constitution right now
      * Hopefully finding a compromise between the two guiding documents
      * Since WriPACA also concerns CT matters, so there is equity to be considered in that regard as well.
    - Next meeting 10/28
  + Assessment (Marisa):
    - No news
  + Curriculum (Lauren Harvey):
    - Discussion on OER as possible replacement for Writer’s Help
    - Committee members (for next meeting) will look at a variety of possible sources and see how they align with relevant topics
* CW (Hannah): CW Department meeting @Aurelie10/23
  + No stipends for Program Directorships
    - As a result, there is no compensation for that sort of work anymore, which could reflect into the work environment. The current plans consist of spreading work around while fighting this decision.
  + Proposed policy for determining TAships
    - The current TAship ranking system is a blind system where the faculty who need TAs do not get a huge choice in these decisions, so there is a move to give those professors more advocacy for students in the process (as it was for the past).
    - The available reasoning for the current ranking system is muddled as well
    - The ranking system likely will not disappear but the goal would
      * A question is brought about whether student involvement through EGU could be included either in the planning process now or going forward in the appointment process.
    - Kate Bernheimer could be a good person to reach out to for this, as she has a lot of stock in the decision (she will likely have 9 TAs every semester going forward).
* EAL (Eric): (Absent) Spring Break
  + The University cancelled spring break in favor for five reading days throughout the semester.
    - <https://catalog.arizona.edu/calendar/2019-2020-academic-calendar>
  + The concern might be the level of involvement of student choice in this and the stress build-up over the semester
  + Ways to support undergraduate students:
    - Build these into PDCs for next semester (Catrina et al)
    - Making instructors feel more empowered to cancel class (an EGU concern?)
* RCTE (Analeigh):
  + A required core class (ENGL 696T, Rhetorical Theories) that was supposed to be held in Spring 2021 (per the RCTE Handbook), was not listed in the course offerings Marcia sent out early last week. The faculty wanted to let SCCT 510 count as the Rhetorical Theories requirement but the course description they used to make that decision was from last year; the upcoming section of SCCT 510’s course description left many students (and faculty) feeling like:
    - SCCT 510 would not be sufficient for fulfilling a Rhetorical Theories requirement
    - It did not make good sense to farm out a core class to a different department
    - ENGL 696T is specified as the *only* course that will fulfill the Rhetorical Theories requirement, so using SCCT 510 would violate that stipulation

Subsequently, we had a faculty + Analeigh meeting last week that ultimately resulted in Aimee Mapes being scheduled to teach ENGL 696T in Spring 2021. The conversation revealed some concerns in how many and what types of courses RCTE is offering each semester, a conversation that I believe will continue, especially in the face of no enrollment next year.

Conversation is sparked; EGU would be interested to know how the faculty plan to fill these gaps creatively so that grad students get adequate content.

* + Next meeting is 11/4
* Lit (Casey): Met 10/16. Lit Fac are currently in MA exam triage mode to help assuage concerns about time to degree (see adjustments below). Not much discussion beyond the MA exam and potential adjustments and accelerated masters program.
  + Conversation on the table for next meeting (10/30) includes: PhD adjustments, Spring Enrollment, Language Requirements
  + Reinforcing the allowance for undergrads to take graduate courses in English if they so choose.
  + Additional discussion about changes to tenure-line requirements for faculty. (APR revisions)
  + Regarding the lack of available courses in the future, we have some discussion in the lit faculty meetings going on right now. Nothing firmed up but there will likely be three courses--an early modern, a Brit/American 1800s-Modern, and a digital humanities/new humanities course each semester, with varied, specialized topics (these proposed courses are meant to help imitate the coverage model we currently have).
* SLAT (Hongni): No news. Next SLATSA meeting is 11/6.
* GPSC (Kelli): We met 10/23
  + Final date to submit thesis to the Grad College (like if you make revisions) is extended to Jan 12 to graduates graduating in December <https://grad.arizona.edu/gsas/degree-requirements/important-degree-dates-and-deadlines>
  + University fee board will come to GPSC meeting in November sometime and give a basic lecture on fees - it’s an open meeting.
    - This was of interest to some in CAJUA, as Shilpita’s interest seems to have changed since the fee issues with Campus Health were discussed there.
  + National conference for graduate and Professional students, all students can attend [SAGE](http://www.sagecoalition.net/); looking for more reps to attend. Email GPSC president (Shilpita) if you want to attend and note in the email which working group that most interests you. Students meet with national and state policymakers and work in student working groups:
    - International Students - F1 visa specifically
    - Student Wellness
    - Student Finance
    - Campus Climate
    - HEA (higher education act) reauthorization
  + Medical insurance changes for next enrollment:
    - Average of 5% cost increase every year, the result is ugly.
    - Grad Students can no longer add medical insurance coverage for domestic partners and dependents; low enrollment
    - No dental options offered; low enrollment, high use
    - Apparently, deductibles are increasing a lot for staff, but whether this is true for graduate students is unknown.
      * Graduate students only have access to one tier in the new system.
  + GPSC will investigate looking into the Foundations Writing textbook ethical issue
    - There is a University policy against books written by individual professors
      * There is some confusion and concern about how this policy interacts with the department textbook; the likely answer is that Students’ Guide is a loophole, as it is not written by an individual but by committee.
      * EGU requests follow-up with Shilpita in this area.
  + GPSC president Shilpita says that the reduction in new graduate students should not limit the course offerings.
    - Zara Ahmad-Post (Eller) validates this concern privately and wants to talk. I invited her to this meeting.
* Lit Grad Curriculum (Casey): Temporary adjustments to MA EXAM Fall 2020 to Spring 2022; “The MA/PhD in English faculty recognizes that our graduate students face daily stressful and time-consuming conditions at unprecedented levels during the pandemic and has decided to put into place some temporary provisions for MA-level students which will help students meet their time to degree timelines.” Below are the adjustments that have been added to the Lit Grad Guide. Faculty regards this adjustment as particularly urgent as extensions to funding will not be forthcoming in the near or middle future. **These adjustments will be in place from Fall 2020 to Spring 2022, at which point faculty may re-visit. Voted on and approved by lit faculty 10/22**
  + Time-to-degree extensions are absolutely not available in the coming years.
    - Immediate impact on 10-12 current students.
    - These adjustments are an option for any student who has not yet taken the MA, including those who are doing retakes of their exams this semester (F20).
  + In lieu of the MA Exam, students may opt to take 3 pre-1900 graduate literature courses; for any or all 3 courses a paper of 15-25 pages written on pre-1900 literature can be substituted (details will be arranged on an individual basis).
    - Students choosing this adjusted MA option will also be required to submit 2 clean copies of unrevised papers they have written for other graduate courses.
    - The papers are to be sent to the graduate coordinator for distribution to a committee for evaluation. **These papers will be used to determine whether the student is Qualified to go on to the PhD program** (in place of MA exam).
    - The committee will consist of the Director, 2 faculty chosen from a ranked list provided by the student, and 1 faculty member appointed by the Director.
  + The Committee has the option to recommend a retake of either of the MA options; appeal by the student will be adjudicated by the faculty operating as a committee of the whole.
* Undergrad Curriculum (Colleen):
  + Changes have been made to the creative writing degree. Aurelie is bringing them to council.
  + Hiring graduate students as TAs
    - What guidelines should be used if a professor wants to hire TAs outside of their degree program (lit, rcte, slat, etc.)
  + What would it look like to reintroduce the accelerated MA program?
  + Possibly combining undergrad and grad classes (400-500 level) to make up for having fewer graduate students
  + Putting our majors on Arizona online
* Social Chair (Ruixue):
  + Hosting the Trivia Night with Josie at 6 tonight. We would like to see you there!
  + Thinking about some asynchronous social opportunities for grads, especially first-year grads

**Projects/Tasks**

* Constitution Revision
  + Propose commenting on the agenda in advance of the meeting to streamline discussion
    - Devoting time for the EGU to reading it, making comments, and deciding major conversation topics?
    - And socializing?
  + How should we run meetings?
    - Questions on the rep reports rather than talking through them
* Finish/continue working on new grad student guide
  + No news
* Archival work to include on our website on the English department page?

**Conversation:**

* Graduate Medical Insurance
  + COVID-19 Testing is free for all students regardless, even if asymptomatic
    - (link: <https://testing.wellcheck.arizona.edu/>)
  + All questions to the office will get redirected to Campus Health
  + Contacting the insurance company is also a good idea
  + Info about flu shots (appts are currently like a month out but they were asked if they could open sooner slots): <https://lifework.arizona.edu/events-workshops/flu-shot-clinics>
* Fewer Course Offerings
  + RCTE had its first run with this with 696T
  + Literature at least has flirted with this already (see Casey’s comment above)
* Textbook Concerns
  + Writer’s Help is being dropped next year
  + GSPC is looking into the departmentally written textbook, as it might be exploiting a loophole about professor-written textbooks in the classroom.

**Questions:**

* How should we run EGU meetings?
  + Proposed a model that will be tested at the next meeting (see Constitution Revision Project above).

**New Concerns:**

* Medical Insurance
  + See Kelli and Josie’s concerns
  + CAJUA is making a resource and has already created a committee around the health insurance info.
* Course Offerings
  + GPSC president adamant about how this lack should not be happening
    - Kelli did not push the issue further given it was her inaugural meeting and can press on this more.

**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)
* Attend Department Meetings
* Attend Open Hour meetings
  + English & WP Open Meetings
    - 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