**EGU Meeting Agenda & Minutes**

**November 6, 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:** | Colleen, Eric, Claire, Casey, Marisa, Sovay, Leah, Lauren, Martin, Josie, Hannah, Kelli |
| **Visitors Present:** | Dalia, Matt |

**PROPOSED AGENDA:**

1. Opening quiet reading time to review rep reports and co-chair reports
2. Discussion on most pressing or largest topics
3. Individual committee meetings (given time)
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>)

* Leah found that adding the address to her email contacts solved the problem.

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

* People signed up for Flex-In-Person: University starts Spring 2021 Stage-2 (on-campus). Teaching in-person is mandatory (will be required to teach in-person for Flex-In-Person classes, number of students to attend class depends on the room)
* CAPS unable to serve individuals who are not in-state (traditionally enrolled).
  + From what we understand, those who are not in Tucson are not able to receive service from CAPS. Which is HUGE and is being figured out
* Institution made TCEs optional (not required): WP rejected TCE requirements this semester. For GATs, [Google Form](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1U_URjoulVjq1JsbWxS22b5MCkBL6uvX7tPY81h2NRVI/edit) if you want to do your own
* Graduate College subsidized the Right Size workload (2-1) for two-years, this academic year being the last. Now the Department has to continue it. So far, the Dept has funds/plans to continue it, but we are unsure what form that will take (perhaps a Fellowship)?

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

* Lit and EAL are allowing applications from people but with no funding
* There is potential for Martin and I to be able to attend the meeting that Aurelie and the PDs have scheduled with Provost Folks in December. This isn’t for sure yet, but I am pushing hard for it and have asked Aurelie to request of the Provost that we be able to attend. In this meeting they will discuss funding/teaching models for GTAs in English in light of the provost’s public statements about how she sees our teaching loads as inhumane. Martin and I have pointed out that there should be grad student representation in that discussion. We will keep you all apprised of this.

**Notes from Department Meeting (Martin)**

* Next Dept. Meeting Dec. 4th

**Notes from Council Meeting (Sovay)**

**Discussion items from Reps**

* Secretary (Claire):
  + Last meeting’s minutes approved
    - Something of import - Leah asked to be looped into the Constitution Revision/Re-imagining subcommittee. If that has not been done yet, we can do that at the end of today’s meeting.
  + All approved minutes can be found on the EGU page [here](https://english.arizona.edu/english-graduate-union).
* First-Year (Josie):
  + Nothing to report.
* EDI (Alyx and Claire):
  + Claire: One GAT reported getting an individual email from Shelley concerning “a number of students opted out of the textbook.” This communication differs from last year’s form email by offering to set up an individual meeting with her about the course where the two would “just talk about how your term is going, what instructional materials you are using, and I get the opportunity to explain how and why it is important that all instructors use the program’s required textbooks.”
    - Given that this is a recurring situation, the comment is made that we made need to strategize long-term solutions with specific goals in mind before next AY.
    - Please reach out if you have received a similar email.
    - Alyx asking that you please forward these emails to her: ([mnelsonturner@email.arizona.edu](mailto:mnelsonturner@email.arizona.edu))
  + Alyx: attended AIME meeting on 10/26
    - Aurelie okay with graduate students drafting their own retaliation statement (we are unsure if this means she will necessarily back it).
    - Aurelie is okay with other EGU officers attending AIME meetings.
    - AIME is discussing having a graduate student “open hour” where students can express their concerns; EGU officers will not be able to attend due to conflict of interest (separate meeting for officers).
    - Reminder that AIME can only provide support, not endorse.
    - Pro-Tip: When personally communicating w/ admin, separate yourself from your EGU affiliation (i.e. “I’m coming to you personally, not as a representative of EGU”)
      * There was some confusion about this recommendation (who gave it, why) in the comments, but it was not addressed in the meeting.
* WriPACA (Leah, Lauren, Marisa):
  + General:
    - Voting on a new standing subcommittee to coordinate student and instructor awards
      * If this motion passes, we would need another EGU rep to serve on this subcommittee for the spring.
    - Information from WriPACA about the proposed awards subcommittee:
      * Standing Objectives:
        + Help w/ (re)designing, marketing, and selecting Student Writing Awards
        + Help w/ (re)designing, marketing, and selecting Writing Program Teaching Awards
      * Relationship to and with making award selection committees:
        + Members of the subcommittee whose students submit papers will not rate their own students’ papers
        + Members of the subcommittee will help staff with the teaching award selection committees
        + Members of the subcommittee cannot serve on selection committees for the teaching awards for which they apply or are nominated
  + Bylaws (Leah):
    - Still meeting almost weekly and working on a voting model to present by the end of the semester
  + Assessment (Marisa):
    - Discussing results of Spring 2020 assessment and planning for Fall 2020 “mini-assessment”
  + Curriculum (Lauren Harvey):
    - Pause on OER resources to review chapters from Guide editors
* CW (Hannah):
  + Asked Kate Bernheimer how to be part of whatever policy changes might take place regarding the TA hiring process.
    - I asked her to forward it to the people mentioned in this email on 11/1; no word from anyone else yet.
* EAL (Eric): no news
* RCTE (absent - email with questions):
  + We had the RCTE Faculty meeting on 11/4 and discussed the ENGL 510 and 696T curricular requirements:
    - I reminded faculty that they need to make sure the course schedule (particular for the 510 and 696T requirements) are taken care of for folks in the first and second year cohorts. ENGL 510 will be offered both Spring 2021 (Matthew Abraham) and Fall 2021 (instructor TBD) - students requiring the 510 course should take it in either of these semesters. ENGL 696T will be offered Spring 2021 (Aimee Mapes) - students requiring the 696T course should take it in this semester.
    - As for the rotating 510/696T schedule prescribed in the Handbook, since there will not be an incoming cohort next year, we will use it as a “reset” for that schedule; current students should see advice above.
    - Analeigh has reached out to the first-year cohort about these updates; Cristina Ramirez sent a program-wide email on 11/4.
* Lit (Casey): I’m working on getting feedback about the recent lit program updates from anyone who wants to give feedback (non-lit folks included). If you have thoughts/opinions/anything you want me to pass on to Lynda + Faculty please email me.
* SLAT (Hongni): (absent) SLATSA is working on arranging the next SLAT Roundtable (a conference for scholars with interests in second language acquisition (SLA)). GATs in EAL and those who are teaching ENGL106,107, and 108 may be interested in this, as well as anyone interested in multilingual writers or multilinguality in general. More details will be shared soon. Here is the link to the Roundtable conference held in February this year: <https://slatsa.arizona.edu/>
* GPSC (Kelli):
  + No important updates.
  + There is a GPSC slack, all grad students are invited to join
    - https://join.slack.com/t/graduateprofessional/shared\_invite/zt-ia1u5s4h-IydpXMVkBFszP8zWNDiesg
* Lit Grad Curriculum (Casey):
  + Meeting 10/30: Discussion of what to bring to Aurelie with regard to MA timeline concerns, continuation of discussion points from 10/16.
  + Meeting 11/6: Temporary Lit PhD Redesign proposed, current workshopping in progress by faculty. No solid decisions yet, of course--finalized version proposal goes to Provost Folks Dec 11th. A lot to go into, [see here for proposed reframe](https://drive.google.com/file/d/17377ub3OBTCxaH61l8y9xJ87UBTwNGah/view?usp=sharing). (essentially a 5-year BA-to-PhD, pessimistic that it will be approved based on general responses/attitudes from deans). Will only affect current cohorts IF the students in those cohorts choose to use this plan of study.
    - To reiterate - it's only in proposal stage as of now, as it’s based on appealing to Folks' "grads should work less" mindset (i.e.; if you fully fund our grads and they don't teach, here's what they could do)
    - Additional discussion of how to restructure faculty labor especially with regard to Independent Study. (IS are currently unpaid labor for faculty & count as Service to the institution)
* Undergrad Curriculum (Colleen): Nothing new
* Social Chair (Ruixue): Nothing new

**Projects/Tasks**

* Constitution Revision
  + No update
* Finish/continue working on new grad student guide
* Archival work to include on our website on the English department page?

**Conversation:**

* Review of the quiet reading time
  + Perhaps ask people to post earlier when possible
  + However, there are usually some last-minute meetings that butt up to the meeting.
  + Perhaps the middle ground is giving a little buffer time to allow commenting and discussion
    - Approved for following schedules

**Questions:**

* Restructuring of WriPACA: What is currently happening? Are we maintaining our representation (and voting rights)?

**New Concerns:**

* Can we talk about this email?
  + Hello RCTE community -
  + Spring 2021 is around the corner. The WP is again offering two sections of ENGL306. The course is LIVE ONLINE for the following times: If you are interested in teaching this class, please send me a one – two page outline of the course that gives information of how you would approach this class. **I’d like to open the opportunity to two RCTE GATs.**
    - Regarding the conversation in CW about GAT TAships and professor choice in the matter; this example shows a type of favoritism in the openness of the opportunity (it has already been limited to RCTE)
    - A consensus rises that the sender of the email ought to clarify why this is distinguished to RCTE Grad Students specifically – we acknowledge there are perhaps reasons unclear to us and that we have misrepresented the situation as favoring a program.
    - ENGL 306: Advanced Rhetoric
      * This brings up the possible problem of limiting courses to programs through ranked choice (as there is overlap in in the programs). If we want to push these boundaries in offerings to GTAs, we should approach it from an interdisciplinary standpoint
* Health Insurance
  + PLEASE explain if you understand these decisions - these are clearly upper admin decisions, and the question of representation is at stake.
    - Health Insurance is becoming a growing concern. A co-chair asked for better information to be spread regarding Health Insurance. We need better connection to Aetna/Campus Care (who do GATs reach out to for more information? Do we have a Department liaison?) This should be included in the next GAT meeting.
* Are we losing something in the WriPACA restructuring?
  + Shelley says it is being reformed for more accurate representation of GTAs
  + The larger concern is that EGU represents people not employed by the WP, which is addressed by making our requirements for EGU reps clear in the constitution.
    - She suggests that EGU is a forum for discussing employment and reporting concerning
    - Where does the graduate student representative report?
    - There will be equal numbers of GTAs, lecturers, admin, and the senior leader does not get a vote.
    - In transparency, they propose a non-binding advisory vote to give popular opinion to the team.
    - There is a fair amount of refining to be done yet, but once they have something more concrete, we can discuss it in EGU.
    - Concern: The writing program running the voting process seems suspect, since administrators would run that, and they have a history of placing people in positions. On the other hand, they have greater reach, since we are a relatively small group that meets
    - Concern: this relegates EGU further from its mission to represent GTAs in an official capacity. The opinion that merging with lecturers would be preferable to losing power entirely by splitting into smaller and smaller groups.
      * This has been proposed as a problem in previous meetings and brushed off.
      * Perhaps the conversation should propose the graduate student vision rather than combating admin.
      * Goals: keep stable representation of GTAs and lecturers, divest power from Senior Director position.
      * What can we provide Leah (and future EGU reps)?
        + Taking a good idea of EGU constitution into these meetings would be the most useful solution.
    - What can we consider doing to make the relationship between WriPACA and EGU work better together?
      * Rumors of WP divorcing from English (we stress the rumor status) could complicate this.
  + EGU designed to give representation in English Department, not WP
* Textbook emails
  + Update from GPSC from President:
    - "I spoke to Provost Folks as well about funding [through textbooks] and supporting students at the English Department. I believe she will be meeting the Department soon to address some of the concerns. Let me know whenever you have some time to chat."
    - Shelley in the past has said they contact instructors with a certain percentage of students not buying in
    - Going to Aurelie is perhaps an option.
    - Should we draft a copy/paste statement redirecting to EGU if the graduate student wants to use it?
      * Ombundsen or an official third party should be involved in these meetings regardless
      * Kelli and Claire volunteered to write email templates if need be.

**Going Forward:**

* Continue making clear our value to the university and to make us more visible on campus
* Possible share rationale behind by-laws decisions between the grad student reps
* Do we want to make a Slack and beta-test using it for ongoing discussion?

**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