

EGU Meeting Agenda

August 26th, 2022

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81315106304?pwd=NEFmWGFFb05DcU5IMXlVbGxHLzdZZz09>

Password: 3NgGR@3202

Secondary Meeting Space (begins at 4:30)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79038126803?pwd=vm6GTOSFj6pBZTJ9YI9ay3vGDdbN68.1>

Meeting ID: 790 3812 6803

Passcode: r6YGpH

Officers Present:	Alyx, Charlie, Josie, Kriti, Mary, Thir, Larissa, Leah, Maria, Mucktadir, Laura, Sean, Griffin
Visitors Present:	Bridgett (Captioner), Nataly Reed (WP Lecturer and UCWAZ rep), Kelli, Martin Cardenas, Matt Tuozzo

Online Access Statement (template provided by the UA Disability Cultural Center)

- Exist in the space in whatever ways are most comfortable to you
- Please state your name when speaking to assist the captioner (e.g., "Alyx is speaking")
- Allow others to fully finish their thoughts before beginning to speak

Co-Chair Reports (Names)

- 1) Alyx (interim Co-Chair) **[VACANT]**
 - a) Welcome Back Everyone!
 - b) Introduction of New Officers
 - i) Review EGU Constitution for Position Responsibilities:
<https://english.arizona.edu/english-graduate-union/constitution>
 - ii) Try to get in touch with your associated points of contact for meetings, responsibilities, etc. within the first two weeks of the semester
 - iii) If you're having trouble locating that point of contact, please contact me so I can (try to) help connect you with the right people
 - c) Nataly Reed: United Campus Workers AZ (UCWA)
 - i) Intro to [UCWAZ](#)
 - (1) Invitation to join and participate in the Student Caucus
(kelly@ucwaz.org and nataly@ucwaz.org)
 - ii) Request: Could UCWAZ use space at 1515 for an Organizing Drive?
 - (1) Wednesday October 19th - UA 8 am - 6 pm
 - (2) Thursday October 20th - UA 8 am - 3 pm
 - d) Unaddressed Action Items from SP 2022
 - i) Fill the following vacant EGU officer positions:

- (1) EGU Co-Chairs (2 positions): **must have previously served as an EGU officer, and cannot self-nominate**
 - (2) First-Year Rep
 - (3) CW Program Rep
 - (4) LIT Program Rep
 - (5) LIT Graduate Curriculum Committee Rep
 - ii) Constitution Revisions (more info under “Projects & Tasks”)
- e) New Action Items for FA 2022
 - i) EGU Meeting Modality Survey
 - (1) Survey open to all grad students; officers be sure to only respond to survey **once**
 - (2) Survey closes **Friday, Sept. 2nd at 5:00pm**; chosen modality takes effect next meeting (Sept. 9th)
 - (3) Due to access needs and other considerations, **Zoom will remain an attendance option regardless of chosen modality**
- f) Conversations for AY 2022-23
 - i) What projects from AY 2021-22 do you want to begin/stop/revisit in your positions? What goals and projects should EGU pursue this year?
 - ii) How do we continue to increase the viability and visibility of EGU in the English department?
 - iii) How can we continue to come together as grad students for grad students to care and support one another in spite of the pressures and horrors of the department/the institution?
- g) Attended [8/26 Dept Meeting](#)
 - i) approved 4/29 Meeting Minutes
 - ii) intro of new faculty and staff; program reports
 - iii) head report
 - (1) New AIB Model (again), is going to be more “transparent” since Colleges don’t have as much discretion on what they spend ← depends on Student Credit Hours (majors and grad students, “butts in seats”); reduced faculty and grad program sizes
 - (a) English budget going to be hit hard in the next year, temp teaching and operations budgets collapsed
 - (b) focus on undergrad curriculum in next months; major changes must be made by October
 - (c) Faculty Survey: promote strengths and potential; what does faculty have to offer (what are your research interests) and potential future for programs/department before next admissions cycle (late fall)
 - (d) Aurelie: the way to build back from the challenges of our difficult realities is to put energy into things we want to work on
 - (2) Grad Studies Committee: Aurelie wants more room for grad student voices, not just focus on curriculum development

- (3) Council Structure Reshift: collapsing certain positions to alleviate stress for folx to serve on more committees due to decreased faculty
- iv) soliciting Council nominations (one of the EGU Co-Chairs will serve on the Council)
- h) Attending 9/9 Council Meeting

2) [VACANT]

a)

Rep Reports

- Secretary (Leah):
 - None!
- EDI Co-Chairs (Thir & Caleb):
 -
- WPC
 - Assessment (Larissa):
 - Meeting with Erin W. next Wednesday
 - Awards (Mucktadir):
 -
 - Curriculum & Instructional Materials (Sean):
 -
 - Difference & Inequality (Griffin):
 - First meeting will be on Sept 12th, 2:30
- GPSC (Kriti):
 -
- Social Chair (Josie):
 - No news
- First-Year Rep: ([VACANT])
 -
- CW ([VACANT]):
 -
- EAL (Maria):
 - None!
- LIT (Mary, Interim [VACANT]):
 - The literature faculty met today for the first time. John Melillo has taken over Lauren Mason's position. The main things the faculty are doing/thinking about at this point are:
 - Ongoing - how best to review/renew the lit grad program in general. How can we make the program sustainable moving forward when we are only offering 2-3 seminars per semester? One answer might be to increase the number of MA students (without full funding).
 - Exams - during the pandemic, adjustments were made to how the MA exam and the PhD exam were given. That adjustment expired in the spring, so they are going to remove that info from the website. There

might still be some adjustments made to the exams but those have yet to be determined. Any thoughts you want me to bring to them?

- Foreign language requirement - traditionally there has been a foreign language requirement for lit grad students. There is some talk that we might remove that requirement primarily because there isn't enough support or classes offered in the foreign language departments. The faculty are in favor of the language requirement in general, but realize they can't reasonably require it if students don't have good options to complete it.
- GRE requirement - GRE is "optional" for graduate applications. The faculty are going to vote on whether they want to make it required, optional, or not required. Lots of professors feel like the GRE is "racist bullshit" (to quote at least one person in the meeting) and don't even want it to be "optional" because they're afraid that applicants will think it will give them some kind of secret advantage or disadvantage.
- Retirements - Suresh and Roger are on final research leave and Susan White just retired.
- RCTE (Charlie):
 - RCTE Faculty meeting is scheduled for Monday, 8/29. Report will follow shortly!
 -
- SLAT (**[TBD by SLATSA election]**):
 -
- Undergrad Curriculum (Laura):
 - First UGCC meeting Sept. 15
- Lit Grad Curriculum (**[VACANT]**):
 -

Project Reports

- EGU Constitution Revision:
 - Procedural/Clarification revisions were approved in-house in SP 2022; **revisions to be updated on the website by Sept. 2nd**
 - Structural/Position-Related Revisions were brought to a vote in SP 2022, and all five passed; **revisions for the exact language needed before being updated on the website**
- EGU Archive Organization:
 - Jazzie, Claire, and Alyx began the process of documenting everything in the EGU GDrive Archive, and began the process of deleting/merging duplicate items
 - Alyx would like to continue this project; any others interested in this project are welcome to contribute
- Directory/Newsletter:
 - Enthusiasm was strong in the beginning, but project didn't come to fruition

Projects & Tasks:

- URGENT: Fill vacant officer positions (especially, EGU Co-Chairs)
- ONGOING: Revise language for Structural/Position-Related Revisions

Conversations:

- Officers → Make sure you are connected with points of contact for position, review EGU constitution position descriptions
- Nataly Reed
 - United Campus Workers AZ rep
 - UCWAZ → wall-to-wall union, representing students, faculty, and staff here and at ASU
 - Links to FAQ and other information included in agenda above
 - UCWAZ concerned about and working on campaign for health benefits and living wage stipends for students
 - Can reach out to Nataly in union rep position using email address above
 - Can also reach out to student rep, Kelly
 - Request: Use space at 1515 on October 19th and 20th
 - Majority of day
 - Purpose: organizing drive
 - Campus members and members from CO coming
 - Need central space to gather, do logistics, debrief
 - Would be reciprocal, find ways to help us if we need things
 - Follow-up discussion
 - Giving permission to use the space depends on where
 - Only have control over what office spaces we are assigned
 - Can discuss again next meeting
- Officer introductions
- Co-chair report
 - EGU's work
 - Not a union, not a legally recognized body
 - Cannot enact same things as an actual union
 - Check out UCWAZ → chance to collaborate with a union
 - Joining is easy, fill out a form online, reduced rates for student members
 - Last semester: organized student debt assembly, rally when mask mandate overturned to show admin we prefer vaccines and masks and demand hazard pay for campus workers exposed to sick students, drove to ABOR meetings
 - Work with workers across campus and also at ASU
 - Joining UCWAZ not required for participating in EGU
 - Advocated for better working conditions for all grad students in WP, TAs, programs
 - Got a raise (20k base pay) but not matching cost of living increase
 - First-year students paying \$800 in student fees
 - Partner with UCWAZ to address this
 - Over \$1000 for international students
 - Lost 19-student course caps
 - Over the last year, turned inward to develop more care and support networks for grad students → want to continue this

project of navigating different modes of being together and make this space for welcoming and supportive

- Not a surveilling body
 - Job is not to police people for not being able to fulfill obligations
 - Here to support
 - If you feel you are unable to fulfill commitments, feel free to reach out so that we can figure out how to alleviate burden
 - Prioritize taking care of yourself
- Conversations for AY 2022-23
 - What projects do you want to work on in your position?
 - Think about ways EGU as a unit or individual committees can support those projects
 - Viability and visibility project
 - Make ourselves more visible especially for first-year students and make them feel welcomed and valued
 - Care and support networks for grad students
 - Ongoing conversation
- Constitution revisions
 - Website update in process
 - Hopefully will be up Friday 9/2
 - Next steps:
 - Clarifying language for some positions
 - Streamline some processes
 - Put larger changes up to a vote
- SP22 remaining actions items
 - Fill vacant positions
 - EGU co-chair positions - high priority
 - Attend monthly dept. and council meetings
 - \$750 stipend
 - Must have previously served as an officer and cannot self-nominate
 - 1st-year rep
 - CW program rep
 - Lit program rep
 - Lit grad curriculum committee rep
 - Alyx will be soliciting nominations for open positions soon
- FA22 action items
 - Meeting Modality Survey
 - Initial responses showing people want to meet together in-person
 - 1515 meeting space not accessible
 - Looking for other spaces → open to suggestions from others, reach out to Alyx
 - possibly library
 - ML 453?
 - Zoom will remain an option no matter what
 - Survey distributed to all English grad students

- Closes Friday 9/2
- Chosen modality will go into effect for 9/9 meeting
- Ongoing projects
 - EGU archive
 - Important to establish record of advocacy work EGU has been involved in
 - Reach out to Alyx if interested
 - Directory / newsletter
 - Possible project that was started last semester
- Closing questions / review of other agenda items
 - Way we can make applications for fellowships and grants more achievable, maybe by asking a professor to hold an English specific meeting?
 - Rep from Grad College or other program who could come and offer information directed toward English Dept
 - Possibly [Shelley Hawthorne Smith in Grad Center](#)
 - Grad College has resources and opportunities to get CV / applications reviewed
 - “How to be poor in Tucson” project
 - Use this as a model for project we could develop for grad students
 - Online resource including contacts to follow up with, spaces that can help us (more than just the list we often see), the knowledge we normally would pass down interpersonally that has been lacking due to COVID
 - Continually grow over time
 - Guide was started a few years ago, could pick that back up

Questions:

- ONGOING: How do we continue to maintain the care systems we’ve begun working on in AY 2022-23? How can these care systems continue to evolve going forward, and what can future care systems look like?
- ONGOING: What is a good funding model? What could help us, the GATs, as the structures shift?

New Concerns & Homework:

- ONGOING: Remind people of travel, research and professional development funding with low-stakes application processes!
 - [EGU Travel Awards for “official university business” travel](#) - \$325 to cover costs of presenting work at a conference
 - [English Graduate Student Research Fund](#) - \$500 for research travel/field work. **Money can no longer be used for local research costs as of Spring 2022** (including buying books, transcription software, etc.).
 - [GPSC Travel, Research, and Professional Development grants](#). Three separate applications for different types of opportunities; up to \$750 for eligible research travel or research project costs, up to \$1500 for eligible Professional Development costs