

EGU Meeting Agenda

September 9th, 2022

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Meeting Link: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/85127486297>

Password: 3NgGR@3202

Officers Present:	Leah, Alyx, Larissa, Mary, Laura, Mucktadir, Kriti, Maria, Maria, Griffin
Visitors Present:	Matt Tuozzo, Marissa (Captioner)

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

- 1) Alyx (interim Co-Chair) **[VACANT]**
 - a) EGU Meeting Modality Survey Results: **Zoom**
 - i) Thanks to all who participated in the survey!
 - ii) We should continue to revisit the conversation as new info/access considerations arise
 - iii) Josie and I briefly discussed organizing in-person events for grad students; reach out to her with any suggestions!
 - b) Meetings Galore!
 - i) 9/9 Council Meeting cancelled (Aurelie on emergency business)
 - ii) EGU/WP Meeting w/ Shelley Rodrigo scheduled for 9/14
 - iii) attending next Dept Meeting on 9/23
 - iv) attending next Council meeting on 9/30
 - c) **[ACTION ITEM] For folks currently working in the WP:**
 - i) What questions or comments do you have for Shelley/WP?
 - ii) What action items do you want to propose for Shelley/WP?
 - d) AY 2022-23 Elections
 - i) I plan to solicit nominations for the vacant positions early next week
 - ii) My goal is to have the election cycle completed by October so new Co-Chairs can begin attending Council/Dept meetings
 - iii) I also need to reach out to SLATSA about their EGU rep
 - e) Constitution Revisions Update
 - i) submitting WiseHub update request for EGU Constitution early next week (Denise has been sick and unable to fulfill update requests)
 - ii) Revise language for Structural/Position-Related Revisions (see “Project Reports” for more info/context)
 - f) Continue Conversations/Address Items from [8/26 Meeting](#)
 - i) Kelli’s comment on filling “Professional Development” and “Values & Strategic Planning” committees

- ii) Mucktadir's comment on funding extensions with respect to next year's expected budget fallout
- iii) Mucktadir's comment on EGU lobbying for increased summer pay

1) **[VACANT]**

a)

Rep Reports

- Secretary (Leah):
 - None!
- EDI Co-Chairs (Thir & Caleb):
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- WPC
 - Assessment (Larissa):
 - Met with Erin for first time last week. Sounds like group is planning to continue looking at race as one of control factors and is possibly hoping to add in socioeconomic status. Is having some trouble with finding a program/analytic system that will do all the things they'd like.
 - Considered asking instructors across sections to submit certain number of portfolios but are ultimately not doing this because we feel it would foster resentment among instructors. Does seem like this is putting a lot on Erin's plate though. Already concerned she does too much work herself.
 - Sounds like this committee is typically very popular so the actual work of assessing will be distributed among various faculty. There's a norming d2l course we use to make sure assessments are normed across instructors' assessments of portfolios.
 - Awards (Mucktadir):
 - Nothing till now. I have emailed DR Ransdell today to know her plans. Waiting to hear back.
 - Curriculum & Instructional Materials (Sean):
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 - Difference & Inequality (Griffin):
 - None yet; first meeting next week on Tuesday
- GPSC (Kriti):
 - None, just found the working links for the recent meeting.
- Social Chair (Josie):
 - I am working to see what resources we might have available for the welcome celebration this semester, but for now, if you'd like to share ideas about what kinds of activities or venues you're interested in, I have [a doc started here](#) and I'd love to get some of your ideas.
 - Some of us newer people (me) have less of an idea about what in-person events have looked like in the past, so if that's a attractive option for folx, input is definitely appreciated.
 - I'm planning to send a survey out later to get a read on folx's concerns with modality and related logistical things.
- First-Year Rep (**[VACANT]**):

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- CW (**[VACANT]**):
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- EAL (Maria):
 - None!
- LIT (Mary, Interim **[VACANT]**):
 - This is a combination of old news and new news. I'm including anything here that students might want to know or comment on.
 - John Melillo is Program Director for literature.
 - [COMMENT: "Dr. Melillo is really wanting to create opportunities for lit folks to socialize, work together, etc. Idea of a pub night with faculty was brought up for anyone who missed the lit hangout last week. He is asking for those who have ideas to bring them to him."]
 - Ongoing - Faculty are wondering 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).
 - Pandemic adjustments - The pandemic adjustments were originally set to end in Spring 22. Because we had no 2020 incoming class, there is not a class of students to "grandfather in" with the policy. We do have a few graduate students who have not yet finished exams who may use the pandemic adjusted exam. Stephanie and John will create a specific Pandemic-Adjustment Exam form for those few students, but the rest of the students will take the "old" exam—or a new version of the exam that the faculty will work on creating this year.
 - Foreign language requirement - Because we have not had the resources for our students to take classes in other languages, we have to continue to allow students to waive this requirement. A long-term solution will have to be worked out. John will get in touch with language departments. In general, the faculty want to keep the foreign language requirement, but they realize that they can't require it if there aren't viable resources/options for students.
 - GRE requirement - The faculty voted on this matter. The majority of votes (6) were for dropping the GRE as a requirement and as an option on the application. GradApp and our website should be updated now or soon.
 - Retirements - Suresh and Roger are on final research leave and Susan White just retired. As far as I know, we're not poised to hire anybody new, so we're really working with a skeleton crew over here. Students aren't happy about this, but neither are the professors. We're on the same team. We ALL want more funding, more faculty, more options, etc.
 - [COMMENT: "John confirmed this when I met with him yesterday (9/8), but is looking to work out some kind of fellowship that would essentially help "grandfather" in postdocs to diversify the LIT specializations"]
 - [COMMENT: "This is something that needs to be clarified to students from what I've noticed. Been a lot of frustration towards faculty and not a whole lot of sense of same team going on. Unsure how we would do this?"]
- RCTE (Charlie):

- There are some major changes coming for RCTE. There were less graduate student applicants, less funding for the program, and increased accountability measures from the Dean's office. The RCTE faculty discussed a series of plans to address these challenges:
 - Revise Curriculum in RCTE Graduate Program
 - Offer hy-flex classes that are exclusively offered during the evenings (4:30-7:00)
 - Cross-list all classes so that upper level undergraduates can boost enrollment
 - Shift recruitment efforts to serving working professionals, international students, and students that do not need funding.
 - Revise RCTE Handbook to account for curriculum changes and new vision for the Masters Program
 - Reduce admitted Phd students to 2-3 each year. Focus on building a Masters Program.
 - [COMMENT: "Concern was expressed in live meeting that support for MA RCTE students isn't really present."]
 - Replace the Immersive Cultural Requirement with a different process
 - Language Requirement
 - Computer language requirement
 - Workshopped publishable paper
 - Craft a themed syllabus around students' interests
 - Thinking about Revising the Comprehensive Exam Process to be over the course of one year.
 - Provide additional structured steps after exams are passed to help students write their dissertations and go on the job market.
 - Outside of the discussion about these revisions to the program, RCTE faculty will send out scheduling information about the Jobs Workshop for Fall 2022, and the RCTE Handbook was unanimously accepted by all faculty attending. There were no changes made to that handbook for this academic year.
- SLAT ([TBD by SLATSA election]):
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 - Undergrad Curriculum (Laura):
 - First UGCC meeting 09/15
 - Lit Grad Curriculum ([VACANT]):
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Project Reports

- EGU Constitution Revision:
 - Procedural/Clarification revisions were approved in-house in SP 2022; **revisions to be updated on the website by Sept. 16th ~~Sept. 2nd~~ (oops, lol)**
 - 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:

Projects & Tasks:

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

Conversations:

- Updates from co-chair's report
 - Meeting modality survey indicated we will keep meeting via Zoom for AY 22-23
 - We will continue coming back to this conversation
 - Survey results indicate Zoom should continue to be an option regardless of what meeting modality we ultimately adopt
 - Next Dept. meeting is on Sept. 23rd
 - Open to grad students
 - 1:30 - 3:00 PM
 - Should be getting email reminders
 - Council Meeting canceled today
 - Will be meeting on September 30th
- Rep reports
- General questions about agenda
 - Problems in literature largely related to few faculty being able to teach courses
 - Ideas about how we can communicate to literature students that faculty are also frustrated about this?
 - Word-of-mouth
 - Faculty are required to do more service and admin work
 - Similar problem in other programs?
 - RCTE has been dealing with this since at least 2018
 - Have not hired any new faculty to replace any faculty who have left, retired, or switched positions
 - One course a semester, no options
 - Brought in 2 graduate students this year
 - Shifting now to MA-focus despite having less support for MA students
 - EAL
 - Has always been 4 faculty members in the program
 - Hasn't heard anything specific about this problem
 - Only have specific classes offered every year
 - Shifting focus away from PhDs to MAs to address smaller numbers in cohorts
 - Anticipated budget cuts
 - Counter-perspective from RCTE:

- Shift in reputation, classes, faculty support from 2013 → 2018 → now: constant state of attrition, changes seem deliberate based on choices they are making
 - 2013: 15 students
 - 2018: 8 students
 - 2022: 2 students
 - Deliberately making those decisions
 - Urging caution in the narratives we are being told
 - Going to push budgetary crisis
 - Faculty have been consistently shifting out
 - Hearing different reasons behind this, especially from marginalized faculty perspectives → losing the faculty we have been using to recruit students due to culture of our program
- Has been happening for 10 years
- Ways to be supporting professors without overburdening students
 - Lit: Doesn't seem to be a clear response on faculty replacement because of factors 'outside' of our control
 - John Melillo has expressed interest in working closely with grad students to find out how faculty can support work students are already doing
 - How do we in turn support work faculty are doing here as well?
 - Faculty are being willing to take on projects / be on committees they are not necessarily well-suited for because they know there are not other faculty
 - Cohorts are here for a set number of years to complete a degree and are supposed to rotate out → hard to maintain projects / viability
 - Keeping this in mind when structuring projects moving forward
 - Hard to consider the longevity when so many factors are uncertain (cohort numbers, program shifts, faculty, concerns changing)
- Have any of the discussions around sabbatical changed to address the faculty shortages?
 - Haven't heard it come up in Lit
 - Impression was that professors going on sabbatical was cheaper for department and/or that they are required to even if they do not necessarily want to (based on what happened during COVID)
 - Could be a financial decision
- RCTE: struggles with having many structures in place to theoretically in place to provide guidance and mentorship to grad students that faculty feel the pressure of

- Annual reviews, qualifying portfolios, etc.
- Mentorship not happening since we do not have the resources
- Lit: director could re-evaluate resources and what is actually supportive to students
 - What is then sustainable for faculty while respecting what students need but makes sense for limited resources?
- RCTE: not finding out what RCTE students need in terms of support
 - Good step for any program would be getting student input
- Cohort system (based on previous MA experience)
 - Go through with set class each year, taking same classes every year with room for electives
 - Accept students knowing they will be taking classes in same sequence and know that they have the funding, instructors, and resources to support them
 - RCTE now trying to adapt core classes for 2 incoming students
 - Advantage: not offering 5 different classes and hoping students will enroll
 - Lower variability in enrollment numbers
 - Not having students taking core classes at different times
 - Not taking some core classes and then relying on independent studies
 - Can admit students with similar interests that drive classes being offered
 - Could be a model for Lit to consider
 - Students needing time off can shift down a cohort since same classes being offered and is a system where we know we can always support these classes
 - Or can make up a specific class as an independent study
 - RCTE: currently students write own questions since faculty do not know which class you took / everyone took different classes
 - No centralized reading list
 - Lit: not enough instructors to feasibly support cohort model
- Lit: another issue is faculty facing health issues
- Possibility to have guest lecturers or visiting professors?
 - Wouldn't have to teach for entire semester
 - Could be workshops, conferences, and presentations
 - Need opportunities to show work, get feedback
 - Brings up questions about doing the New Directions Symposium again this year
 - Last few years, no grad students interested in running it

- Faculty would likely be supportive if someone wants to lead that
 - Reaching out to Grad College with questions about where else in the university we can go to supplement resources and support
 - Professional development opportunities
 - Streamlining the project in terms of the kinds of support we need if we don't have the personnel in our department
- Looking for more support related to writing for publication, job applications, professional development in general
 - Previous institution: graduate writing network
 - Speakers and workshop sessions → opportunities to get feedback on all types of materials based on different interests
 - Could address needs across the university
 - We as English majors (with supposedly most support in this area) worried about writing support → other departments / groups also likely feeling this
 - Is there a way for us to coordinate this type of support for our students outside of our program?
- Free graduate writing support:
 - Graduate Writing Lab: <https://gradcenter.arizona.edu/graduate-writing-lab>
 - Tutoring
 - Writing groups
 - Workshops
 - Fellowship and application development support
 - Tutoring through THINK TANK Writing Center: <https://thinktank.arizona.edu/writing-center>
- Take questions back to our programs explaining what we are experiencing
 - Bring concerns to Council
 - If we have a somewhat cohesive statement around supporting faculty, getting support for grad students, and wanting more professional development opportunities would be helpful
- Accessibility / safety of 1515
 - No disability access of second floor offices → have to meet in courtyard if there are access problems
 - Railings are very hot during the day, easy to burn self during the day
 - Lights do not come on at night, stairs are not lit
 - Space is often not secured, front gate left unlocked
 - Have come in and found students in courtyard
 - Space is not cleaned often
 - Cockroaches found in office
 - Very limited parking including limited disability spaces
 - It is difficult to travel there with mobility access issues
 - Might be able to take to Anne Shepherd
 - Email Alyx with concerns and work order needs
- Continue reaching out to Alyx with concerns to take to meetings / Council

- Action item for WP instructors
 - Let Alyx know about concerns to take to meeting with Shelley
 - Extensions considering budget concerns
- Alyx will begin soliciting nominations early next week to fill vacant positions
- Continue to think about the kinds of support we need given limited faculty
 - Framing as an entire department concern rather than specific to programs

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