

EGU Meeting Agenda

October 21st, 2022

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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

Password: 3NgGR@3202

Officers Present:	Kriti, Alyx, Josie, Leah, Larissa, Maria, Désiré, Thir, Griffin, Matt, David, Caleb,
Visitors Present:	Melissa (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) Griff
 - a)
- 2) Alyx (interim Co-Chair) **[VACANT]**
 - a) Welcome to our new EGU Officers! Please let us know how we can support you in your new roles
 - i) EGU Co-Chair: Griffin Zimmerman
 - ii) LIT Graduate Curriculum Committee Rep: David Seamans
 - iii) LIT Program Rep: Matt Tuozzo
 - iv) WPC Professional Growth Committee Rep: Désiré Tossoukpe
 - v) WPC Values & Strategic Planning Committee Rep: Anh Dang
 - b) “Midterm” Check-In
 - i) How do we feel about where we are individually/as a unit at this point in the semester?
 - ii) Where do we want to be individually/as a unit by the end of the semester? Are folks interested in an end-of-semester get together?
 - c) attended [10/21 Council Meeting](#) (Commenting privileges have been enabled so you can see the comments I made in the document during the meeting.)
 - i) ACTION ITEM: Aurelie wants to revisit conversation about the revitalization/repurposing of the Grad Studies Committee
 - (1) How do grad students want to be represented in the committee (program reps, grad student volunteers, open hours)?
 - (2) What concerns/discussions would we want to bring to the committee? How would we want to go about this?
 - (3) How would we ensure this is a “safe space” for grad students to bring up concerns/discussions?
 - ii) In-person presence in the department is difficult due to late-stage pandemic and recent campus shooting

- (1) Council members were appalled by and frustrated with the department/administration's response to the incident
- (2) Calling for more unified and timely communication, and university codified policy about protocols for active shootings rather than reactionary measures to “cover their asses” (avoid lawsuits)
- (3) Aurelie plans to schedule another building review to get recommendations for addressing safety during a campus incident to then bring to SBS Dean (previous recommendations were unfeasible or wouldn't be paid for)
- iii) Conversation about collapsing LIT Program Rep with LIT Graduate Curriculum rep (this will obviously depend on how the LIT PD wants to revitalize/repurpose this committee)
- iv) Brought up concerns about there not being a reporting body that can address grad student concerns as both students *and* instructors
 - (1) Comment: “Tenney Nathanson recalled that the WP Director and PDs would have conversations with students when situations like this would occur with typically positive outcomes; perhaps grad students can initiate these conversations rather than being forced to either go to DOS or OIE.”
 - v) Aurelie's term as Dept Head term ends this year; SBS Dean will contact Council to put together a hiring committee for the next department head
- d) Kelli and Kai attending Dean's Meeting this coming Monday (10/24); please add your final contributions to the [Concerns About 1515 Office Space](#) document by **no later than Sunday (10/23) at 5:00pm**
 - i) Comment: “During the workspace tour with Kai, they brought up the possibility of asking the Dean to move us to a different space on campus. However, Tenney Nathanson recalled that a building review of Modern Languages found there were glaringly obvious problems with securing/evacuating the building in the event of an active shooter.”
 - (1) Comment: “Yes, and unfortunately, Modern Languages (at least on the 4th floor) represents most of the same accessibility issues: no all-gender restrooms, the bathrooms on most floors are not accessible to chair users (like...cannot get in the bathroom entrance non-accessible), the accessible entrance only connects to the main/3rd floor, and there is a dearth of meeting spaces that are big enough to handle more than a dozen people comfortably/with social distancing.”
 - e) attending 10/28 Dept Meeting; agenda updates pending

Rep Reports

- Secretary (Leah):
 - No updates
- EDI Co-Chairs (Thir & Caleb):
 - No updates.
- WPC
 - Assessment (Larissa):

- Facilitated my breakout reflection group today. We're thinking about having a 5th category of reflection depth that addresses theorizing reflection and synthesizing reflection. We're thinking this could help to show another deeper level of reflection. Need to talk to Erin Whittig about the ideas from today's meeting.
 - Otherwise, assessment folks have finished practice portfolio assessments and are moving on to the real ones. Wishing we all had more time/energy...
 - Awards (Mucktadir):
 - No update
 - Curriculum & Instructional Materials (Sean):
 -
 - Difference & Inequality (Griffin):
 - Link to October meeting notes: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HK3IW3Tcm9ns9aGa6j1GV7OzWL_VhD-q5RzJr5zWSjfg/edit?usp=sharing
 - Committee decided that climate survey will be focused on working conditions:
 - Instructor Training & Support, e.g. mentorship best practices
 - Experiences of Discrimination
 - Job Security and Pay
 - Values & Strategic Planning (Anh):
 -
 - Professional Development (Désiré):
 -
 - GPSC (Kriti):
 - None.
 - Last week's discussion:
 - Travel grants have been delayed due to personnel changes including grants for professional opportunities. Promising practice Grant and Basic Needs Microgrant are not delayed. (about 25 applicants already)
 - National Level Advocacy: Job Opportunity
SAGE: Communications Director. [By Laws](#). Contact: Luis Figueroa gpscpresident@email.arizona.edu
 - \$10,000 to subsidize CAPS services, including individual and group counselling, workshops, and psychiatric service for graduate students only.
 - COBA- Alvarez - Student Conflict concerns. GPSC does not know yet how or whether to respond to the conflict. Some believe that the event was blown out of proportion and has nothing to do with race and the person having disability issues. Others believe that in any case, the police should not have been called on a student and that COBA's statement is highly problematic. https://www.instagram.com/coba_uarizona/?hl=en
 - Comment: "FWIW, at the DCC this is the 3rd such documented act of aggression committed by Alvarez towards this student.

Additionally, I don't think there is room for argument that a director of ODI would be unaware of the risk to life it invokes to call police into Black student spaces.”

- Harshbarger deaths: Concerns about violent threats from the students shared by Associate department. A student committed suicide. Thomas Meixner was killed by a former H&AS student who has a recent and extensive record of violent activities and crime. Some remarks “flagging or marking” such students to prevent any such violence on campus were made. The discussion seemed to be divided between pro v/s anti-police and the level of authority and involvement on the campus.
- Social Chair (Josie):
 - End-of-semester get-together
 - I have dropped the ball in not getting us a social event before now, but perhaps this is serendipitous considering the events on campus this semester. I had some deadlines that are now past to where I can hopefully get this event scheduled very soon now, but the following questions will help expedite my process:
 - My current thoughts and questions for you:
 - I had thought to book the rooftop of ENR2 for our social gathering, but do folks still prefer to meet on campus, or does an off-campus eatery or drink-ery sound more appealing?
 - Griff has offered up his home as a possible home-venue,
 - Close to campus (behind El Con on 5th between Dodge and Alvernon),
 - Relatively mobility-accessible (single story, ranch-style home), large backyard (unpaved, but with paved patio)
 - Parking should be available
 - All members of the household are fully vaccinated and the backyard has space for socially distanced socializing
 - Can possibly coordinate a potluck with attention to dietary restrictions
 - Can provide quiet room for more sensory-friendly socializing
 - Can also provide a child-friendly venue: Griff has a 13 and 10 yr old and they have a separate area where kids can hang out during the event
 - Do we have an idea of what has worked best in the past for scheduling in terms of best day/time?
 - As a note: “University Police required for events occurring after 5PM or on the weekend”
 - Also, does early November sound like the best time, or would we truly prefer an “end-of-semester” get together towards the last days of class?

- Alyx would like to continue this project; any others interested in this project are welcome to contribute
 - Project likely on hold until after elections or until next semester
- Directory/Newsletter:

Projects & Tasks:

- URGENT: Fill vacant officer positions (especially, EGU Co-Chairs)
- URGENT: Add concerns about 1515 office space to this doc:
 - ☰ [Concerns About 1515 Office Space](#)
- ONGOING: Add ideas for alternative summer jobs to this doc:
 - ☰ [Possible Summer Job Opportunities](#)
- ONGOING: Revise language for Structural/Position-Related Revisions
- 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

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?

Conversations:

- Welcome to new EGU officers
- Check-in on how everyone is feeling about the semester in the chat
 - Responses showed general feelings of being overwhelmed, anxious, tired, stressed
 - Several people working on applications, diss proposals, etc.
 - Alyx opened up space for EGU officers to step back from EGU work as needed to take care of themselves based on everything that is going on
- Check-in on how EGU is feeling as a group in working toward our goals, completing projects, and being where we want to be at the end of the semester
 - No specific ideas shared
- Rep Reports
 - End of semester get together
 - Asking for thoughts about hosting an event on campus or other locations

- Avoiding campus over concerns about police
- Griff offering home as possible location: large yard and space inside
 - Less than 2 miles from campus and parking for 8-12 cars
 - Fairly accessible in terms of mobility but has pets
 - Paved patio
 - Could host family-friendly afternoon event or at other times
 - Can get together with Josie and create flier with accessibility info and other details
 - Surveys assessing comfort levels (masks, indoor spaces, etc.)
 - Chat: making sure Griff is reimbursed for other less-obvious party supplies (cleaning supplies, etc)
- Question about food/beverages
 - Option: potluck, bringing cards with ingredients listed for those with dietary restrictions
 - Option: getting funds from WP or English dept. for catered food or other supplies
 - Typically pretty open to granting funds to us
 - Just need to pay up front, keep receipts, and then submit for reimbursement
 - Easier if one person purchases and seeks reimbursement for all costs
 - Can't be advertised as a "party" to be reimbursed
 - Are there preferred dates/times?
 - Nice to meet before holidays start since after can be more difficult to schedule
 - Possible childcare concerns for students who are parents trying to attend evening times
- Co-chair report
 - WP Council: Aurelie is considering revitalizing of Graduate Studies Committee as a Graduate Student-Centric Committee
 - Come together as grad students to discuss concerns with faculty, staff, and other personnel
 - Will be cross-program and include all four English programs
 - How do grad students want to be represented in the committee (program reps, grad student volunteers, open hours)?
 - Questions of how to decide on reps for the committee
 - Already elected reps, asking grad students to volunteer time
 - How to hold space
 - Office hours, other meeting times
 - Chat: open hours sound good but could actually be more traumatizing/intimidating than helpful
 - What concerns/discussions would we want to bring to the committee? How would we want to go about this?

- How would we ensure this is a “safe space” for grad students to bring up concerns/discussions?
 - Can we even guarantee this?
 - How we want to go about engaging in discussions that will not divide us further
- Previous efforts have not always been productive or generative
- Don't need to come to consensus now, just mentioned in Council meeting this afternoon
 - Can email ideas directly to Aurelie or bring to EGU space / co-chairs
- Chat: what faculty will be present? This makes a big difference
 - Can ask Aurelie which faculty will be representatives and how those faculty will be chosen / or how they can opt-in to these roles
- Chat: Does Aurelie have an idea of timeline or is it contingent on our thoughts?
 - Can take the time to talk about this more and consider all sides over the next few weeks
 - Don't have to rush on decision
- How does Aurelie picture this committee serving grad students differently that EGU currently does?
 - EGU's transformative justice approach of helping each other rather than spending as much time trying to advocate with faculty that typically isn't effective
 - Chat: Will this committee run into the same problems or will it actually be heard?
 - Will this committee offer other services / types of support? Will engagement in this committee take away from our efforts in EGU to support one another?
 - Idea to rebrand EGU and be more assertive about what EGU looks like
 - Hard to get people interested in EGU
 - Just as hard to get students interested in another committee
 - Overlap likely not the answer
 - Is there an in-road where we can use this to fill a functional need that EGU does not already have?
 - Chat: Is there an agenda for this committee being an eventual replacement for EGU and should we be concerned?
 - Goes in tandem with work on campus around unionizing and the tension there
 - Current understanding is that this wouldn't be the case because it would require dept.-wide consensus and completing process through bylaws to remove EGU from English Dept. constitution

- Would be difficult to even propose motion to accomplish this and admin challenge for everyone involved
 - Think about a rebranding of EGU as not giving up votes in important spaces but possibly disinvesting from fight with faculty and consolidate power and energy
 - Invest in supporting grad students
 - Food, resources, childcare, faculty support networks, helpful information for grad students
 - What can we do together?
 - Care-building networks
 - Assess what we keep advocating for and arguments we keep building
 - How can we address these issues ourselves?
 - How can we use the networks we have to get faculty support or other resources to address them?
 - Chat: rebranding could possibly make it easier to network with grad students at other universities
- Committee is supposed to serve as another collaborative space for grad students to talk about curriculum and administrative concerns
 - Chat: Could employment concerns be brought to this space?
 - Not explicitly clear, conversation was focused more on our role as graduate students
 - Concern about lack of reporting body for the overlap in our roles (students and employees) was brought up
 - Can this committee be the space for concerns that address this overlap?
 - Chat: Have we thought about adding a Graduate Employment Rep position to EGU?
 - Not sure who they would meet with, but a possibility
 - Adding a position is something EGU is in charge of, don't need admin approval
 - Chat: hesitant to add EGU position because of difficulty filling current positions
 - Can return to this conversation in a future meeting
- Aurelie is ending 5-year term as dept. head this year
 - Will be getting new dept. head during this academic year
 - Chat: Do we have any ideas about replacement? Is it by appointment or election?

- SBS Dean will be contacting Council members to construct a hiring committee
 - Not sure what influence grad students have in this
 - Might solicit feedback on candidates, don't think we will have vote
 - Interim was recently Cristina (RCTE)
 - Dept. currently lacking faculty with the experience to fill the position
 - ACTION: approving Alyx's response to Aurelie's question about this committee and the ideas about streamlining EGU
- Streamlining EGU
 - Idea: not having as many WPC reps since there are so many and that can be taking grad students away from program rep positions. Where can we direct our effort for the most impact?
 - GAT WPC positions are the voting reps in the WP - the opportunity for grad students to have voting power in decisions WP makes