**EGU Meeting Agenda**

March 5, 2021

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

[**https://zoom.us/j/95266234904?pwd=UHVhcHhrM0o1bEYxQ2M5Y2xCUmNYZz09**](https://zoom.us/j/95266234904?pwd=UHVhcHhrM0o1bEYxQ2M5Y2xCUmNYZz09)

**Password:** 3ngGr@dz

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

**PROPOSED AGENDA:**

1. Opening ~5-minute quiet reading buffer time to review rep reports and co-chair reports
2. Discussion of most pressing or largest topics
3. Plan WP/EGU joint meeting and Constitution Revision in breakout rooms
4. Project/committee reports:

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

**Notes from meeting with Shelley ()**

* Discussed the 3/26 collaborative event
  + Brainstormed activity: Rotating break rooms that have individual anonymous documents for feedback/comments (WP conversation of how to talk in/out, EGU conversation in/out) (explained in meeting)
  + Then, large room discussion
* Shelley will be taking sabbatical Spring 2022

**Notes from meeting with Aurelie ()**

* Aurelie will be taking sabbatical Fall 2021
* A department-led space of care?
  + Aurelie is interested in opening up a space for grad students to discuss their struggles this semester, possibly in one of the department open hours. She was imagining this not as an action space, but one to simply share and process thoughts/feelings, because she doesn’t want to be part of the trend of ‘addressing’ hardship, reminding everyone of campus resources, and moving on. I suggested this department-led space might not be desired, and as nice as it sounds many of us are strangers to each other even within our own programs, and the English Department is not an actual community in terms of us processing grief together for the first time over Zoom. But I am bringing it to you all to see if my perception misaligns with other’s needs and desires. If you **would** want to make/go to a space like this, please share thoughts?

**Notes from Council Meeting ()**

* Next meeting on 3/12

**Notes from Department Meeting ()**

* Hypothetical plans re: grad student cohort numbers across English programs are being presented, but there is nothing concrete. The numbers themselves don’t seem too useful now because they are all speculation, but numbers mentioned from upper admin do not indicate that any programs will be slashed beyond functionality, and grad student admissions will resume this fall.
  + JP proposes 80 grad students total across English programs (currently 97)
  + Strangely, there are whispers \*from admin\* of upping stipends. This is not concrete at all, don’t get excited. Highly unlikely it would take effect next year. But this does mean to me that they don’t actually want to abandon all of us? We’ll see…
* A first-year raised a good point: will there be training for in-person teaching…? A lot of worry about being trained only for an asynchronous online course
  + COVID-mitigation plans/protocol for in-person teaching?
    - Clear masks for accessibility?

**Martin:**

* New Directions Conference
* I will be sending out the call for nominations on (hopefully) March 15th. Please start talking/encouraging individuals to either nominate or self-nominate! Almost all of the positions will be open and will need to be filled!
  + Is anyone still interested in this idea? I can provide the contact for Heidi and Sarah again

**Discussion items from Reps**

* Secretary (Claire):
  + Last meeting’s minutes for approval ([2/19](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NjB3Z_48FH1hUp7ZGI4XXm33SUxuGjTD146HJy6xyMs/edit?usp=sharing))
  + All approved minutes can be found on the EGU page [here](https://english.arizona.edu/english-graduate-union).
* First-Year (Josie):
  + No news.
* EDI (Alyx and Claire):
  + AIME meeting (2/22)
    - We were only able to attend some of the meeting, but for the most part discussion was centered around the survey AIME is putting together for the English department.
      * Much concern shared about how isolated people are in their academic bubbles - lit unaware of RCTE struggles, faculty shocked at lecturer situations, etc.
      * Some lecturers have had similar contract trouble to Nina and Casey’s where their funding wasn’t fully explained or did not match what they were actually paid. They were also told not to worry.
        + They at least considered it worth filing over: <https://www.eeoc.gov/youth/filing-complaint>
    - They recommended that we have an ombudsman or two at the 3/26
      * Alyx volunteers to contact the office to be sure we have one.
    - WP/EGU event just in case.
      * Need to do it soon - backlog
      * Alyx volunteers to contact the office
* WriPACA (Leah, Lauren, Marisa):
  + General: WriPACA Meeting (3/2)
    - Bylaws Voting Policy
      * Reviewed results of advisory vote on GAT representation language for voting policy
        + Survey Results: Total Votes: 56
        + Participant Breakdown:

Faculty (non-admin) (13)

GAT (37)

Staff/Admin (7)

* + - * + Vote Breakdown:

Version 1: (11 Total Votes)

Faculty (non-Admin) (3)

GAT (2)

Staff/Admin(6)

Version 2: (45 Total Votes)

Faculty (non-Admin) (9)

GAT (35)

Staff/Admin (1)

* + - * Bylaws subcommittee proposed full [voting policy draft](https://docs.google.com/document/d/17t3RgftXSq_dj9allgtakKexJySeMkUQJHmTBTcCduk/edit?usp=sharing) for official WriPACA vote
        + During the discussion period, people shared concerns about GATs feeling excluded from EGU and participation in EGU being a barrier to GAT voting rep positions in the WP

There was also a concern that the above vote, being slightly split, indicated that EGU was not totally representative of all graduate students

* + - * + Others again raised questions about our ability to represent and communicate with GATs in programs outside of English who are working in the WP
        + There was also some confusion about EGU as a body - after some explanation, it became apparent that some attendees thought EGU was more official and organized than an advisory body.

This was the stem of a lot of questions about membership and what it takes to become a constituent.

* + - * + All of these were answered by Leah, Hannah, and Kelli, who affirmed that we seek to be an inclusive body that brings concerns to the English dept at large

They also argued that keeping EGU in the language of the bylaws ensured oversight over the role from GATs as well as committee members.

* + - * The proposed policy will go out to all voting reps of WriPACA within the next week, and the votes will be counted and shared before the next full WriPACA meeting on 4/6
    - Stacey Cochran also proposed a Writing & Wellbeing standing subcommittee ([proposal](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JUmIDhRyFqaUGwzgDlDifX2QdXG0Y84pZ8rMWj32w_A/edit?usp=sharing)), and it was approved for official WriPACA vote
      * The main objective would be planning the annual conference for Writing and Wellbeing
      * Concerns were raised about the WP being officially tied to the event and thus financially responsible for it, but Stacey said that he was not asking for any funding
  + Bylaws (Leah):
    - Met 3/2 at 9 AM to discuss results of the advisory vote and revise voting policy draft
      * Based on advisory vote, revised draft to include EGU representative language and EGU control over the voting process for its own reps
      * Made other minor changes to language and decided to put the policy up for official vote at the full WriPACA meeting 3/2
    - Next meeting 3/16 at 2 PM
      * Work from here will depend on results of vote on new voting policy (either revising voting policy or moving on to another section of the bylaws)
  + Assessment (Marisa)
    - Next meeting 3/19 at 11 AM
      * Review sample of Fall 2020 portfolios & discuss “reflection depth”
      * *Recommended reading*: [ch 3 from Kathleen Yancey's *A Rhetoric of Reflection* (2016)](https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/fywpd/files/2019/01/taczak-and-robertson-integrate-approach-reflection-and-transfer.pdf) to better understand the concept of "teaching for transfer," a curricular approach to reflective writing.
  + Curriculum (Lauren Harvey):
    - No updates
* EAL (Eric): will be on a flight during this meeting.
* RCTE (Interim, Martin):
  + Cristina and I are going to complete the QoL Survey to send out to RCTE students
  + Comps & Cookies
  + Most of the meeting revolved around trying to find a solution the number of future of GATs and the impact on course-loads for faculty
* Lit (Casey): Still no news. Meeting w/ Dr. Mason this upcoming week, hopefully will have stuff to report next meeting.
* SLAT (Hongni): Based on the last ExCo meeting, there should be a new SLAT cohort this year. SLAT is still trying to figure out the funding. Not sure if there will be new GATs joining WP.
* GPSC (Kelli): I can only stay for 15-20 minutes today
  + Elections are now open for next year’s positions.
    - I DO recommend we elect someone.
      * It’s about 15-18 hours per month with $80 per month stipend.
      * Having a representative provides us access to lots of committees (including faculty senate). These are the committees reps are invited to sit on: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aVXxh7uDeyYRuFVEu9_JoC5I14MdIbnJ-lks6Y-vGOw/edit?usp=sharing>
      * I have uploaded a [VoiceThread](https://voicethread.com/share/17081066/) talking about my position.
    - Deadline for president or VP is March 21; deadline for reps is March 28
  + New Financial literacy workshops (planned through the next academic year) with Joe Moraco
    - Co hosted by the grad college; topics are catered to grad student needs
  + New job opening:
    - Grad institute director (starts April 5th). Will be on Handshake
  + Volunteers needed at the POD to help with vaccines
    - volunteers get a vaccine after 30ish hours of volunteering - open to your partners <https://healthsciences.arizona.edu/connect/announcements/volunteers-needed-help-covid-19-vaccine-distribution>
    - sometimes people are getting vaccines sooner than 20 hours
* Lit Grad Curriculum (Casey): Someday I will have news...
* Undergrad Curriculum (Open): --
* Social Chair (Ruixue): No news

**Projects/Tasks**

* Constitution Revision
  + It's time to get serious about this! Especially after the WriPACA meeting (discussed in that section of the agenda), and prior meetings with Shelley, it is pretty clear that we need to seriously re-define a lot of terms in our constitution, and, in particular, "member." Potentially, I think we should get rid of this category altogether- it doesn't reflect the way we operate at all (which is as an advocacy group). This is for protection as well as just making sense to people!
  + I plan to focus my efforts on Constitution revision for the rest of the semester. I need a few people to commit to doing this with me -- and I have several 'roles'/tasks in mind that require various amounts of time dedication. Breakout rooms today? Or reserve the end of the meeting to talk with people interested in Constitution revision?
    - Casey volunteers to help brainstorm during the meeting breakout rooms
* Conflict Resolution/Retaliation Packet
  + Alyx, Claire, Kelli
  + Thank you for the feedback! We will be editing these documents and sending them to external groups (AASA, Disability Resources,) for their feedback as well.

**Conversation:**

* Meeting with Shelley and EGU
  + Ending more open-ended (think the sticky notes from last year)
  + Confirmed for 3/26
* Questions about our feelings on Stacey Cochran’s proposed standing committee for the Writing and Well-Being conference
  + There were other concerns from faculty and CT that the committee’s service would be benefiting his research (but unknown whether he is actually benefiting with grants and such)
  + Generally, we agree that we have too many questions to endorse such a committee
* Nominations for EGU hopefully sent 3/15 - spread the word, think ahead
  + Leah reminds us that WriPACA positions cannot be decided until fall
    - Standing committees (Curriculum, Assessment) but main topics determined at the beginning of fall
* Breakout Rooms for projects
  + Constitution Revision
  + WP/EGU joint meeting (the purpose is to promote positive communication across different positionalities)
    - We are imagining people (from across the WP) and would probably be using breakout rooms
    - We will need to manage diverse identities
    - The goal is to maintain anonymity (google docs in incognito?)
      * Preference for async / talking groups?
      * Choosing your own breakout rooms (odd talking, even async, or the like)
    - Listening-based activity to break down power differentials
      * Quiz quiz trade
    - Brainstormed questions with Shelley:
      * 1. Comments/Feedback/Questions of Information going out from the WP to GATs/Grad Students
      * 2. Comments/Feedback/Questions of Information coming in from the WP to GATs/Grad Students
      * 3. Comments/Feedback/Questions of Information going out from EGU/Grad Students to WP.
      * 4. Comments/Feedback/Questions of Information coming in from EGU/Grad Students to WP.
    - TESOL conference that weekend :/ --- reschedule?
    - What follow-up will this meeting entail?
      * Email update with concrete changes/methods?

**Questions:**

* How does my partner/family get a vaccine if they are not affiliated with the university?
  + Volunteers who work a certain number of hours (36) are guaranteed a vaccine
  + <https://healthsciences.arizona.edu/connect/announcements/volunteers-needed-help-covid-19-vaccine-distribution>
* How do we report other classes abusing reading days?
  + Kelli found this link
  + [Resource from OIA on reading days for instructor](https://teachingmodels.arizona.edu/sites/teachingmodels.sites.arizona.edu/files/2020-11/Spring%202021%20Reading%20Days%20Recommendations.pdf)
    - Apparently, there is a process for specific courses to be exempt from reading days, but the link provided does not work
  + Students can file a formal complaint as well: <https://catalog.arizona.edu/formal-student-complaint-process>

**New Concerns/Homework:**

* Out-reach/Getting people interested in EGU
* Look at Slack
* Determine questions for Shelley and Aurelie

**Going Forward:**

* Continue making clear our value to the university and to make us more visible on campus

**More Ways to Get Involved:**

* The EGU Slack can be found here:
  + **Link (may need updating):** [**https://join.slack.com/t/arizonaegu/shared\_invite/zt-l3b1j8nr-tlhmBZofUm1L9cnGv74REA**](https://join.slack.com/t/arizonaegu/shared_invite/zt-l3b1j8nr-tlhmBZofUm1L9cnGv74REA)
* [CAJUArizona](https://www.cajuarizona.com/) (on Instagram under this tag)
* Attend Department Meetings
* Attend Open Hour meetings
  + [Link to all Spring 2021 WP meetings](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14AYzPB8ny8tAzkgHRJSJMxfVH1sW5dbegmXlU3k9iss/edit)