## **EGU Meeting Agenda**

**Date:** 4/3/2020

**Time:** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**Zoom Link:** <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/727922265>

[1. Approve meeting minutes from 3/6/20](#_tfudl3lzfrkv) 1

[2. Update from WP Lecturers](#_14mnyd1849z) 1

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[5. EGU Elections for AY 20-21](#_drattoasden5) 4

[6. Email from Aurelie (4/3/20)](#_3gp0luw7oqy) 5

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| --- | --- |
| **Officers Present:** | Kathleen, Dalia, Claire, Leah, Sally, Lizzy, Nina, Marisa, Martin, Kelli, Suyi |
| **Visitors Present:** | Mare, Lauren |

## **1. Approve meeting minutes from 3/6/20:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11x_pJtSUr3W0jYKn_tw_f2jlbJfDKwdwGH4mnBZtSvo/edit?usp=sharing>

Secretary’s Note: All dates and deadlines were determined before the University moved to counter the novel COVID-19 virus. Some dates and deadlines may have changed since the EGU last met.

Minutes were approved by show of hands.

## **2. Update from WP Lecturers:**

Due to the ongoing SBS budget crisis as well as the impending financial burden of COVID-19 (see email from Aurelie below), the Department of English and Writing Program (WP) lecturers are being targeted in the first wave of cuts to the budget. Many of them will lose multi-year contracts and other benefits. They are organizing a letter-writing and op-ed writing campaign to argue for their needs and visibility. If you are interested in contributing, please contact both/either:

* Nataly Reed ([reedn@arizona.edu](mailto:reedn@arizona.edu))
* Kindall Gray ([kindallg@arizona.edu](mailto:kindallg@arizona.edu))

Conversation:

* The question is raised as to how we the GTAs can best advocate for lecturers in our current position.
  + While GTAs have the Grad College and GSPC to advocate for them, lecturers have few (any?) structural advocates.
  + The GSPC has advocated for student contracts in the past.
  + However, there is a lot unknown (course cap numbers, number of classes, &c)
  + Additionally, while contracts are being honored through AY 2020-2021, after that point we are all contingent faculty.
  + With all this in mind, we need to be conscious of how we phrase and use our energies in advocating, since we likely will be busy advocating for ourselves as well.
* The suggestion of limiting sabbaticals and cutting salaries is proposed.
* The suggestion of looking at similarly sized programs’ EGU statements is proposed.
* The suggestion of demanding a Director statement on the situation is proposed.
* Perhaps ultimately all we can do is ask Aurelie and Shelley to advocate higher, since these decisions are coming from the Provosts’ Office.

## **3. Representative Reports:**

* Secretary (Claire): You can find past approved minutes on the EGU page [here](https://english.arizona.edu/english-graduate-union). I submitted a request for last minute’s minutes, but it looks like it was lost in the Spring Break rush. It is being resubmitted now.
* First-Year (Martin): no updates; trying to get information from first-year folks
* WriPACA:
  + Leah (Strategic Plan): no updates
  + Jason (Bylaws): not present
  + Kelli (SLOs): no updates; meeting next week
* CW (Suyi): Talking about workshops being done digitally/online but still “business as usual”; they are trying to work out further accomodations/adjustments for creative writing workshops.
* EAL (Aleksandra): not present
* RCTE (Zack): not present
* Lit Grad Curriculum (Dalia): no updates really
* Lit (Laura): Lit faculty are discussing the MA and Comps exam structures via email, as well as discussing the possibility of transitioning to online courses in the Fall, if necessary. Budget cuts have been mentioned, but not talked about in detail as of yet.
* GPSC (Dwight): not present
* SLAT (Nina): faculty are currently in talks for a new SLAT director (decide over the weekend). They have also sent a survey to collect questions and concerns from SLAT students, though there is an understanding that there may not be answers.
  + A lot of students are worried about summer work/funding ; there is also concern for teaching 106/107/108 in the fall with lower registration numbers.
    - In this event, students are confused as to whether they would have to use the PDC shell for 106/107/108 for a class they have been building individually for a year.
  + There are also concerns as to how is preceptorship servicing students who want to teach 106, 107, 108
* EDI (Elizabeth & Ashley):
  + AIME mainly seems to be mobilizing on the situation lecturers are facing. They’re currently hurrying to schedule a meeting, first just AIME people and then with Aurelie joining us later.
  + Outside of anything that comes up with all-of-EGU (like the doc of suggestions Kathleen sent WP/ENGL admin this week), I’ve just been like adding myself to meetings and reminding people that doing everything digitally is like...drowning in access issues. So please let me know if there’s anything you or your peers would like me to complain about~
    - Via Maredil: I’m going to try and find out if the emergency student relief fund is available to non-US citizens
* Undergrad Curriculum (Sally): Here are my [notes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/19eQ1dYPTWXlTzeNpnQ9ZQNcJPUE_iF98hnWp0DPpHCo/edit?usp=sharing).

1. Why do ENG have declining enrollments? (the move to SBS, staff overhaul, and new programs developing in different colleges/schools)
2. SLOs: “cultural range” requirement?
   1. A solution is to make “plug ‘n play” modules for online courses
   2. Showcasing these in ENGL 280 would also get more people in touch with non-Anglo-Saxon work in literature studies
   3. Most core classes already have diversity built in

* Social Chair (vacant): no updates

## **4. Co-Chair Report:**

* ***ENGL Dept. Council Meeting, ft. Lizzy () —***
  + List of folks serving on the WP Director search committee:
    - Chris Segrin, Chair (Head of Communications)
    - Joel Smith, Lecturer
    - Alan Kohler, CT Professor
    - Shelley Staples, EAL
    - Tom Miller, RCTE
    - Ragini Srinivasan, Literature
    - Kathleen Kryger, EGU
    - Monica Vega, Staff
    - Reid Gomez, external, GWS
* ***Meeting with Shelley —***
  + Shelley was sent the PWA, and it seemed to be received well. (Aurelie noted getting it only)
  + Shelley said she had heard from all the WP except one, and they are all healthy
  + SLOs, bylaws, and Strategic plan are all on hold for the time being
  + Additionally, the search for a WP Director is undertaken by a committee outside the department, and the petition for the search now goes to the Provost for approval, for budget reasons.
* ***ENGL Dept. Meeting, ft. Lizzy —***
  + A lot of faculty level projects have been put off, including workshops for hiring committees on subconscious bias and a diversity workshop on the department retreat (neither of which are happening).
  + No confirmed updates
* ***GPSC-Sponsored Meeting with Provost Folks, ft. Lizzy —*** 
  + Learned that a lot of grad students across the campus are afraid of losing funding and the scarcity of summer employment/funding (we aren’t alone)
* ***EGU Sends COVID-19 Recommendations to Aurelie and Shelley***
  + See the GTA version of the document ([attached here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VDkmhLX73ifq8d7U79xb9sNykflBLGe5-g0DgtDioGk/edit?usp=sharing)); Shelley and Aurelie were sent a different copy from the EGU Co-Chairs Google account without student comments
  + So far, the responses have been thankful and thoughtful

## **4. Our Current Projects:**

See link to EGU Projects doc (started by Stefan last fall; needs to be updated): <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17UJJAqvAVNVR0bh6j4qVMR4wZixVeBlB0MHfapHL6is/edit?usp=sharing>

## **5. Email from Aurelie (4/3/20):**

Dear Department,

I am writing today to report some of the concerns and possibilities that have been mentioned this week at meetings including the SBS Heads & Directors meeting.

* Predictions are that the economic fallout from the pandemic will be severe for our university and that budgets will be cut to the bone.
* Foundations Writing courses will have higher enrollment caps. This is the tragic reversal of a hard-won and important feature that impacts undergraduates tremendously. The new caps have yet to be determined.
* University-wide enrollment is predicted to be down, especially with international and out-of-state students.
* The impact of low enrollment will hit all our programs, but especially the Writing Program. We are in fact gravely concerned that the double-punch of enrollment declines and higher course caps will disrupt employment for our CT faculty, integral members of our community who are vital to the teaching mission of the department and university.
* Per the Graduate College, graduate students, incoming and current, will have contingency language added to their contracts across UA. Graduate programs are being asked to refrain from inviting students from a waitlist after their initial round of invitations. We stand firmly with our graduate students in prioritizing their security and wellbeing and maintaining the health of our programs even in these hard times.
* The temporary teaching funds we receive from the college have been reduced. We rely on this funding and are working diligently to trim course offerings to size. The undergraduate and graduate programs have been impacted, and my gratitude to faculty for remaining flexible with us in scheduling classes. We are focusing our efforts on offering courses that students need to fulfill degree requirements.
* Discretionary funding such as faculty and student travel, as well as support for events, may be threatened. We’ll try to hold onto what we can. In the meantime, we suggest minimizing summer travel plans (and not reserving anything that is nonrefundable).
* As you already know, hires across UA have been “paused,” and so it is with regret that we have postponed searches for faculty specializing in PTW and 18th Century Literature.
* The [UA’s Financial Sustainability Emergency Response Taskforce](https://businessaffairs.arizona.edu/financial-taskforce) is working to propose actions to help mitigate the economic crisis; furloughs have been brought up as one possibility. Please send them your feedback.

None of this news is good, but the Department staff and administration is working hard to meet the challenges and will continue to do so in the weeks and months to come. We will need to work together in many ways, from being flexible in terms of teaching assignments to sharing service more widely and deeply. Together, we need to protect what we hold dear, even as we soberly assess this new reality. As always, I welcome your questions, ideas, and feedback, and I encourage you all to use whatever platform you have to speak and protest as needed. And know that I stand with you.

Have a safe and relaxing weekend,

Aurelie

## **6. Conversation:**

* The call for transparency and accountability in making decisions as to summer teaching jobs and funding is voiced.
* Teaching Online
  + Online teaching is apparently getting stricter as to checking course syllabi, D2L shells, and PDC shells
  + There is no apparent control group (of teachers teaching how they like to judge against the PDC shells), but this is not known for certain.
  + There is also the concern that these PDC shells are not built with international internet barriers in mind, thus rendering some materials and tools ineffective for international students this summer/fall. The reliance on programs like Google Suite and Youtube and time differences are concerning.
* Incoming student concerns were voiced, and questions about courses, funding, and teaching were clarified.
* Concerns Moving Forward
  + Should we freeze sabbaticals?
  + Will EGU Travel Funding be cut soon/ever?
  + Will the directors comment on the contingency of student contracts?
  + What is the situation for fall PDCs in 106/107/108
  + Are course caps changning for summer classes?
  + Could the program/directors clarify summer teaching decisions?
  + What is the status of Med Help and New Start?
  + Whose salaries are being cut?
* A reminder that there are no commitments to anything past July 1; those decisions will be made by May 1.