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"So, what are you going to do on your Christmas break?"

Me:



### ESA MEETING #5

Tuesday, February 16, 2021, @ 4:15 PM EST via Zoom

<https://tinyurl.com/ESAmtg5> (PW: 190241)<sup>1</sup>

2:00 PM–2:15 PM Fellowship and mingling

2:15 PM–2:30 PM Co-Chair updates and announcements

1. Updates from 1/29 EC meeting (see below)

- *Proposal to decrease maximum transfer MA credit to address alleged course cancellations from under-enrollment (Nancy disagrees with this characterization)*
  - *Tepid reception among both students and faculty, so likely not going to be discussed going forward—but worth considering other ways to reduce consortial faculty workloads. Nico has withdrawn the proposal.*
- Changes to Portfolio Examination (a) requirements, (b) disclosure/visibility of readers, and (c) length of syllabus
- Discussion to revise language of “placement” to something more reflective of today’s job/hiring practices/market(s)
- Dire budget news; Kandice anticipates further cuts to course units; admissions reduced to 8 students for cohort incoming AY 2021–2022

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<sup>1</sup> Here’s the full invitation:

Topic: ESA Meeting 5

Time: Feb 16, 2021 04:15 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89420225801?pwd=KzU3amZlOTNlOFY0NlFSMDJxNHh1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 894 2022 5801

Passcode: 190241

2. What do we do with our budget

- a. We have a fairly sizable pool of money from DSGC + Mellon, and we should spend it this semester - probably won't roll over. What makes sense to do?

2:30 PM–3:00 PM      Committee updates

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Updates</b>
Admissions and Financial Aid	<p>Onur Ayaz            Sharanya Dutta            Daniel Hengel            Christian Lewis            Emily Price            Nik Valdez            Michell Wilson            Dhipinder Walia</p>	<p>We had our big admissions meeting and decided on 11 initial offers and ranked waitlist by specialization. If we get all our initial offers we can have a cohort of 11, but that's unlikely so we will probably end up with our GC-shrunk cohort of 8.</p> <p>Several faculty voiced opinions that they do not like this new flipped admissions model and wish that specialists also read in round 2. A new hybrid model that has mixed spec and non-spec in each round was mentioned, as was a new system so we cut a lot of more applicants in the first round so that each reader can read more apps in the second round. Kandice mentioned having a follow up meeting to discuss how we want to tweak this process and/or the application.</p> <p>The meeting got a bit chaotic and there was some bickering. We have 13 specializations but only 11 slots for initial offers. Siraj originally condensed Early Modern and Medieval and 18th cent, Romantic, and Victorian, but this (rightfully) caused some backlash. Instead, Kandice suggested that some over-represented Americanist groups forgo their initial offer slot</p>

		this year, which led to some bickering about who would do that.
Alumni and Fundraising	Sukie Kim Stefano Morello Queenie Sukhadia Robert Yates	
Co-Chair	Will Arguelles Genevieve Bettendorf Olivia Wood	GC library budget getting cut by 5%.
Conference Operations		
Conference Steering	Miranda Hajduk Emily Price	We have a tentative schedule and sent out all our acceptances. We also officially have a keynote speaker, and have begun the process of getting her in touch with the people who can make sure she gets paid.  We have 6 people plus us to help moderate (thank you volunteers). Also our website is live and so is registration.
Course Assessment	Onur Ayaz Cary Fitzgerald Cassandra Murray Tim Dalton	We collected surveys last semester using google forms--all that's left is compiling everything and sending the results to Kent.
Curriculum	Mitchell Wilson Sylvia Korman	
Diversity	Filipa Calado Miranda Hajduk Daniel Hengel Emily Price Nik Valdez Eric Dean Wilson	We haven't met yet this semester, but we are still in touch with publicslab about our post-grant plans. They had some ideas and we feel positively about them but we were waiting until this semester to be back in touch.
Elections	Onur Ayaz	No update
Executive	Shoumik Bhattacharya Michele Chinitz	

Faculty Membership	Jacob Aplaca Filipa Calado	FM is currently reviewing applications for Latinx appointment.  We plan to push for two rhet/comp appointments.
Friday Forum	Bradley Nelson Sean Nortz	
Placement	Queenie Sukhadia Sam O'Hana Cassandra Murray	
Recruitment	Christian Fryer-Davis Daniel Hengel Paris Shih Sukie Kim	
Representative Outreach	Jacob Aplaca Dainy Bernstein Miranda Hajduk Stefano Morello Eric Dean Wilson	Miranda has no update.  Jacob: I have been reaching out to my cohort to encourage attendance at FM events.
Website and Editorial	Param Ajmera Nicole Cote Cary Fitzgerald Zach Muhlbauer Queenie Sukhadia	

**Running Notes:**

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**Attendees (11):**

Will Arguelles  
Olivia Wood  
Gen Bettendorf  
Christian Lewis  
Emily Price  
Miranda Hajduk  
Jessica Lugo  
Sylvia Korman  
Queenie Sukhadia

Onur Ayaz  
Eric Dean Wilson  
Jacob Aplaca

## Details from 1/29 EC meeting

Item #1 from 1/29 EC meeting: proposal to **reform MA transfer credit policies** from Nico Israel, who's all but withdrawn it after a tepid reception

- Summary:
  - Currently require students with pre-existing MA credit to take 9 classes (cf.: 6 @ NYU; 10 @ Columbia and Fordham; 12 @ Stony Brook and Rutgers)
  - Nico claims that students with transfer credits aren't taking GC classes, which leads to decreasing enrollments and cancelled classes that aren't full enough to run
  - Nico's proposed solution: decrease maximum amount of transfer credits so English Program classes can be filled
- Discussion:
  - Nancy notes that classes have rarely been cancelled due to under-enrollment (typically one per year, though Nancy is preparing a study for next EC meeting)
  - Kandice is "still unsure what problem it is [this proposal is] trying to solve"
- EC will vote on proposal at next meeting (Fri 2/26)

Item #2 from 1/29 EC meeting: Curriculum Committee's **drafted changes to add requirement to portfolio examination**

- New version would require students to submit "a one-page portfolio plan for submission to the [faculty] examination group to which they've been assigned"
- Intention: give students more feedback earlier in the process to address widely reported anxiety among students about period/language/subdiscipline requirements
- EC voted unanimously to send proposal back to Curriculum with request for more granular language/specifications about logistics of spring debrief

Items #3a–3b from 1/29 EC meeting: **portfolio examination revision to syllabus length**

- EC voted unanimously to approve Curriculum's recommended revision of maximum syllabus length ("3–4 pages" changed to "typically 3–6 pages")
- EC voted unanimously to disclose examiners' names to students after examinations have been administered, graded, and passed