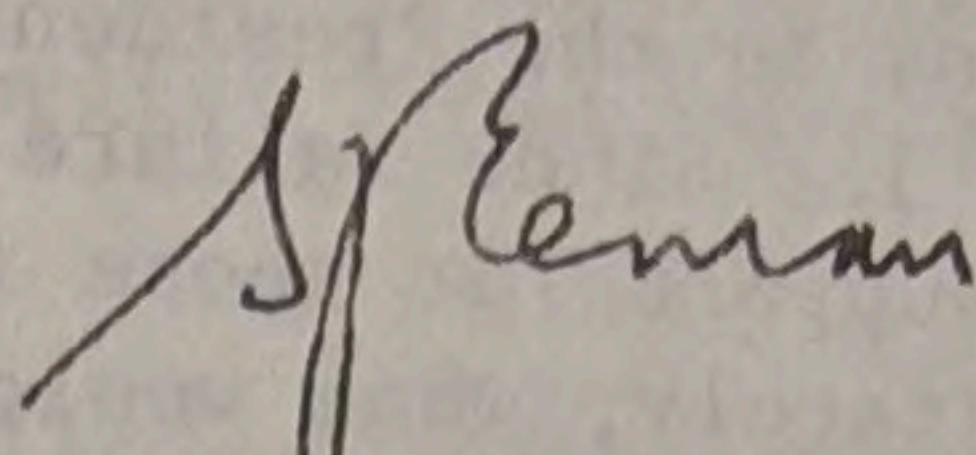


DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE FACULTY SENATE  
DISCUSSION OF PRESIDENT FLAWN'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
FROM MR. SLEDD CONCERNING THE WAIVER OF E 346K

James H. Sledd, Professor of English, has filed with the Secretary of the Faculty Senate the document set forth below. It is being circulated to members of the Faculty Senate for their deliberation at the meeting on April 29, 1985.



Simon J. Bernau, Secretary  
 The Faculty Senate

DISCUSSION OF PRESIDENT FLAWN'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
FROM MR. SLEDD CONCERNING THE WAIVER OF E 346K

I have prepared this document to support my unacknowledged request to Ms. Spirduso that she put on the agenda of the next Senate meeting a discussion of President Flawn's answers to my questions at the University Council's meeting of March 18. It is essential that the Senate should know that the "waiver" of English 346K is a part of a more general attack on the composition program. Bureaucratic answers often conceal more than they reveal. This document illustrates that principle with respect to English 106K and 206L.

1. D&P 1520-1521 of the Faculty Senate. A Proposal by the College of Liberal Arts for an Undergraduate University Requirement in English.

"Finally, for the weakest students in the university we are proposing English 206 and English 106, courses to accompany English 306 and mandating two hours or one hour per week in the language laboratory. [emphasis added]. -- 2/2/81

2. D&M 14192 of the General Faculty.

The weakest freshmen are "the clientele for the remedial laboratory work entailed in the English 106 and English 206. Our pilot experiment with the laboratory handling this lowest 10% of the entering freshmen has been, by all reports from both faculty and students this year, a remarkable success.... If the University ever succeeds in attracting more minority students than it presently has, such a facility will be useful in a different dimension." -- 5/14/81

3. D&M 9016-9017 of the University Council.

"Built into our proposal and approved by the General Faculty and this Council was a provision that a certain percentage (we are currently using 10%) of the students would have to take remedial work in the writing laboratory. We have been carrying that program out ... for the last year and a half with marvelous success. The people who are in the lowest 10% ... are mandated [emphasis added] to go into the writing laboratory to get tutorial help one or two hours a week; last year 600 people a week were helped. It has been working marvelously."

--12/13/82

- 4. Minutes of the Senate of the English Department, December 8, 1983.

"Bill Sutherland reported on five topics.... 5) New English requirements: ... At the freshmen level, the recommended English 106 and English 206 courses present significant difficulties and may not be taught initially."

- 5. D&P 9528, 9542-9543 of the University Council

"Questions to the President Concerning the New English Requirements.... 3. Since failure to offer English 106 and English 206 would weaken support for those freshmen who most need help and need it most immediately, what would be the effect on minority students, for whom especially it was suggested that the 'laboratory' handling such work 'will be useful' (D&M 14192)?" ... Mr. Livingston said that he was of the opinion that Mr. Sledd's third question ... concerned 'matters largely internal to the English Department.' ... I can only say that they [English 106 and English 206] were not created for minority students, so far as I am aware...." [For minorities, see Item 2 above; for internality, Item 3, line 1.] -- 1/23/84

- 6. Minutes of the Freshman English Policy Committee, February 10, 1984.

"Ruszkiewicz [Director of Freshman English] reported on a conversation with the chairman [W. O. S. Sutherland] concerning the offering of English 106 and English 206. The decision not to offer the courses was confirmed by the dean and a vice-president."

- 7. D&P 9614 of the University Council

"James H. Sledd (English) had submitted a question about the decision not to offer English 106K and English 206L.... He asked the identity of the decision-maker. President Flawn called on Dean Robert D. King (Liberal Arts) to respond to the question. Dean King said that his only involvement with the two English courses in question had occurred during the Fall Semester when the Chairman of the English Department had asked him if and when the courses had to be offered. Dean King said that his response had been that the matter should be dealt with at the Departmental level. He knew of no one else who had taken action on those two courses." [For internality, see Item 3, line 1: "approved by the General Faculty and this Council."] -- 3/19/84

- 8. In the University Council on April 16, 1984, I asked President Flawn a question which is too long to quote fully but which I quote in part from my own typescript:

"Which Vice-President confirmed the decision not to offer two courses which had been described to the University Council as eminently feasible and potentially of special value to minority students?" [See Items 2 and 3 above for feasibility and for value to minorities.]

I give the response from a report on the matter which I distributed to members of the English Department on April 17, 1984:

"President Flawn and Vice-President Fonken both replied, unequivocally, that no vice-president had been involved in the decision in any way."

- 9. Minutes of the Freshman English Policy Committee, April 27, 1984.

"Ruszkiewicz reported on his meeting with the Chair about English 106 and English 206. The Chair told Ruszkiewicz that the decision not to offer the courses in 1983-1984 was his own." [Contrast Item 6 above.]

- 10. D&P 9914 of the University Council

"James H. Sledd (English) has submitted the following questions to the President: 1. What is the status of the following English courses: a. English 106K and English 206L: Are they presently being offered?"

The President's written answer follows: "The authority to offer or not to offer English 106K and 206L rests with the English Department. [But see Item 3, line 1 above. -- js] The Spring 1985 Course Schedule shows a section of English 106K (hours to be arranged) and a section of English 206L (hours to be arranged). Both courses were open through the add and drop period but were then cancelled due to a lack of student enrollment."

- 11. Unspoken Facts

The Course Schedule (page 200) does indeed list English 106K with a prerequisite of "concurrent enrollment in English 306" and a limitation "to students with SAT scores of 353-380." English 206L has the same prerequisite but is limited "to students with SAT scores of 352 or below." But the courses were not required, as the Senate and Council had been promised (see Items 1 and 3 above), and a student who tried to register for one of them was turned away. In fact, no such courses had been devised. After the new English requirements were adopted, a planning committee for English 106 and English 206 had worked for months, but when W. O. S. Sutherland decided not to offer the courses, the planning was discontinued and came to nothing. Non-existent courses were listed in the Course Schedule in such a way as to make it seem that the offering was genuine.

I will identify sources of this information (a) if the sources are promised immunity and (b) if the sources agree to accept that promise and be identified.