

# Department heads seek options to fill E346K writing component

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In the wake of the postponement of English 346K as a graduation requirement, college deans are compiling alternatives for students.

William Sutherland, chairman of the Department of English, has begun meeting with deans from other departments to discuss the effects of postponing English 346K. Tuesday he spoke with representatives from the colleges of engineering and communication and tried to contact the College of Business Administration.

Cathy Eves-Ringstaff, assistant to the dean of business administration, declined comment on the future of substantial writing component classes for business students. She said faculty members are working on a new policy that should be distributed to business students Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning.

Undergraduate deans were notified Friday that E346K — Writing for Different Disciplines — has been indefinitely postponed as a graduation requirement. The move alters the substantial writing component requirements for all students under the 1983-1985 and 1984-1986 cata-

logs.

Charles Sorber, associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Engineering, said he would ask Sutherland to reinstate English 317 — Technical Writing — to fulfill the substantial writing component requirement. Before the department began offering E346K in 1983, engineering students were required to take E317.

Sutherland said the two departments will continue discussing the matter of reinstating E317.

"We (the English department) have to lay down what we can and can't do," he said.

The process may be lengthy because the English department would need money and staff for the class, but Sutherland said he would like to have a decision for the fall semester within two weeks.

English department faculty members say they are hoping other UT colleges will offer substantial writing component classes to relieve the department of the burden of teaching upper-division composition to every student. They say the move would help bring the department budget under control while offering students a chance to write about subjects in their own fields.

"Writing is properly a university-

wide responsibility," said Wayne Rebhorn, professor of English.

In a letter informing English faculty members that E346K had been postponed, Sutherland said, "The department will do all it can to assist lecturers in finding jobs." The letter stated the department would recommend former English lecturers to other departments that may be looking for people to instruct substantial writing component classes.

Terry McDonald, lecturer in English, said he doubted positions in other departments would open up.

"Our degrees are in English," he said. "They're going to want someone with a degree in their field. We're not qualified."

"The University has a policy of not hiring someone for a lower position than what they have had before at UT," he said.

George Wead, associate dean of the College of Communication, said he and Sutherland have been discussing the situation since the postponement. Wead said students currently enrolled in E346K should not worry. But Wead said the change could be a problem for other students because the two most recent catalogs still require the class.