

Major Selling Points of our Plan:

1.) The plan will help UT maintain the national reputation its writing program has gained over the last decade. A major writing program needs a vigorous, publishing faculty involved in the administration of coherent and innovative composition courses which reflect current research and scholarship. It cannot be an assemblage of random classes offered on the side by faculty members primarily interested in other kinds of teaching and research.

2.) The plan will increase the efficiency of the writing programs by significantly reducing the bureaucracy now in place for supervising courses in the English Department. Three course committees (FEPC, E 346K, Advanced Composition) will be eliminated under the plan, replaced by a single, smaller body (The Writing Committee) under the direction of a Writing Director with enhanced authority and responsibility.

In fact, the plan extends a version of the structure used successfully for more than a decade in Freshman English to all the writing courses in the department. The Writing Director will be in a position to coordinate easily and deliberately such matters as teacher training, testing and placement, course evaluation, textbook selection, and so on-- matters now handled independently by various individuals and committees working toward no common goals.

3.) The literary component of the English Department will be relieved of the responsibility of overseeing and maintaining courses peripheral to their scholarly interests. Matters of hiring, scheduling, and staffing in the writing courses will be relegated to the Writing Director working in cooperation with the Associate Chair of the English Department.

4.) Under the plan, students will be able to choose from a wide range of courses tailored both to their general needs (E 306, E 325M) and to their specific disciplines (E 346K). They will be able to take writing courses at any level (freshman, sophomore, upper-division); they will have a writing course (E 310) available to them even if they place out of E 306. The simple administrative structure and the elective nature of the English requirement will give the Writing Director more flexibility to develop and offer programs fitted to the needs of the university and students.

5.) The clear lines of authority suggested in the new program will eliminate many chronic sources of conflict in the English Department. The Writing Director and Writing Committee will be responsible for administering a successful writing program.

6.) The plan requires no resources beyond those already available in the Department of English. It entails no increase in administrative costs. It is workable without lecturers.

7.) The Department of English *must* have some kind of writing program. The plan suggests how it can, within current resources, retain a program of national stature. Without such a program, the successful graduate program in rhetoric cannot be maintained.