

# Shift of technical writing classes proposed

By **DEBRA MULLER**  
Daily Texan Staff

Students studying technical and business fields at the University may have to turn to their own colleges to obtain an English education that will complement their professional interests.

The E 346K committee, appointed by Chairman William Sutherland of the Department of English, made public Friday a proposal that would restructure the sequence of required English courses and would shift the responsibility of technical writing classes to different departments, said Joseph Kruppa, E 346K committee chairman and English Department associate chairman.

The proposal allows students to receive credit for writing courses taught in other departments. Kruppa said the committee believes other colleges should take a part in providing technical-type courses.

"We've talked to engineering very frankly and to business very

frankly," Kruppa said. "If you want other kinds of things, you'll have to provide them yourselves."

The English Department offered E 317, a technical writing class, and E 310, an expository class, for the last time during fall 1984, Kruppa said. The department replaced the classes with E 346K, a discipline-specific composition course.

Kruppa said the department had hoped that with the phaseout of the two courses, that other departments would offer similar composition courses comparable to E 346K.

"We knew when we generated the plan that we needed outside help," Kruppa said.

But Kruppa said no departments offered such courses and that Peter Flawn, then president of the University, urged that the English department be solely responsible for teaching E 346K.

E 346K, suspended for a year while the committee examines the writing program, originally con-

tained a natural science and technical writing component, Kruppa said. Under the new proposal, E 346K will be offered, but will not provide a science and technology component, he said.

Under the proposal, E 346K will be offered in two versions: Arts and Humanities, and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

"The old proposal hoped we'd get help," Kruppa said. "The new proposal insists on it."

Although the business and engineering schools both offer writing courses, the classes currently do not satisfy English requirements. Kruppa said the committee would work with the schools to determine what type of class could satisfy the requirements.

"We would necessarily work with them," Kruppa said. "But we'd still very much have a say."

A.H. Meyer, College of Engineering academic coordinator, said the possibility that engineering depart-

ments would offer additional writing courses had been discussed, but that nothing had been decided.

"At this time, we have no serious proposal," Meyer said.

Business school officials could not be reached for comment.

James Kinneavy, a professor of English, said the proposal does not address the 62 percent of undergraduate students who are studying business or technical-related fields.

"All four of the courses neglect the professional interests of students at UT," Kinneavy said.

Kinneavy said E 346K, under the new proposal, offers only arts and humanities, which is a small component of the University population.

The proposal will be discussed in a department meeting Sept. 11, and faculty members will participate in a mail ballot with a voting deadline of Sept. 18. After the vote, Robert King, dean of liberal arts, will make the final decision.