

# THE DAILY TEXAN

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# English 306 proposal passes in a landslide victory

By **MATTHEW MATEJOWSKY**  
Daily Texan Staff

Department of English faculty members Wednesday overwhelmingly approved a controversial proposal to require a freshman English course the University would not teach during the long semesters.

The proposal still requires the approval of Robert King, dean of the College of Liberal Arts; the University Council; UT President William Cunningham, and the UT System Board of Regents before the changes can be made.

Joseph Kruppa, E 346K Committee chairman, said the Department of English spoke with "a very strong and clear voice" by approving the changes by a 3-to-1 margin.

"I was very pleased to get such strong

support from the department," Kruppa said.

The proposal would restructure the sequence of required English courses. E 306, a freshman rhetoric and composition course, would remain a part of the University's nine-hour English requirement. But the requirement could only be satisfied by transfer, examination, a summer course at the University or a course taught through UT extension.

The proposal also offers three new lower division composition courses, but does not include a technical writing class.

Charles Rossman, an associate professor of English and member of the E 346K Committee, said he was "delighted" by the outcome of the vote. Rossman said the proposal was "overwhelmingly superior" for both

students and faculty.

Rossman said the new classes would offer a variety of subject matter for faculty members. He said these include black culture, contemporary culture and conventional literature.

"Instead of processing people, this (course) is going to be more exciting," Rossman said. "I know in two or three years down the line students are going to be extremely happy the change has been made."

Rossman said the number of faculty members needed to teach the 4,000 freshman students taking E 306 this semester was a "fundamental" factor in the department's proposal.

Alan Gribben, associate professor of English and an E 346K Committee member,

called the proposal an "honest" proposal because, "this is the best we can do" at the present time.

"I think we're finally being honest with the campus community," Gribben said. "We have fudged by using temporary faculty and overusing graduate students" to teach the nine hours of English required for all UT students.

"It is the best possible solution at this time considering the circumstances" because no top 20 university has English departments half-staffed by temporary faculty, Gribben said. The new courses are not "two dimensional" and can be taught by the department's graduate students, he said.

James Kinneavy, professor of English, said the result of the vote was predictable,

but said he was surprised 20 faculty members voted against it. But the proposal will not be beneficial for students, he said.

"I'm opposed to a group that says the only thing it's interested in teaching is subject matter we're interested in," Kinneavy said. He said the vote indicates the Department of English has no concern over the E 306 course.

Kinneavy and three other department members created an alternate plan and presented it to King in May. The alternate plan would have required students to take nine unspecified hours of English courses. The plan also would have allowed students to place out of E 346K by examination.

Kruppa has said the committee considered the plan, but he said the plan was unworkable.