

General Faculty fails to OK English hours

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Of 1,668 voting General Faculty members only 50, not enough to form a quorum, showed up at Tuesday's General Faculty meeting to consider a report detailing possible changes in lower division English requirements.

LACK OF a quorum did not stop the faculty present from reviewing the report, which is an update on the effects of a reduction of lower division English requirements in 1973.

The report recommends that no change be made in current requirements and that another committee be appointed to study ways of improving undergraduate writing.

Eng. Prof. James Sledd called the recommendation "another evasion" of undergraduates' writing problems, pointing out that 57 per cent of 1,500 students he polled in 1975 found writing skills training taught in required courses slightly or not at all helpful.

THE POLL was mentioned in the committee report.

The report included surveys of University faculty "revealing widespread ... dissatisfaction" with students' writing ability. A 1977 poll taken by the committee showed 50.8 per cent of the 807 faculty members responding favored a return to 12-hour English requirements. Further reduction of requirements was opposed by 89.2 per cent.

Freshman English coordinator Maxine Hairston noted the national trend of dropping admission test scores. "...Deficiencies our faculty sees in students at the University... seem more to reflect the deficiencies of college and precollege students throughout the country than to be the direct result of anything they are or are not learning in lower division English courses," Hairston said, reading from a copy of the report.

Full responsibility for improving writing skills cannot be delegated to the English department only, she said.