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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH [REDACTED]

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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March 20, 1990

TO: Members of the LDEPC

FROM: Linda Brodkey

Subject: Meeting, Tuesday, April 3 (1:00 P.M.) *PAR 202 mw*

At this meeting I would like to talk about plans to revise E 306. Over the last few years, there have been a number of discussions in the Faculty Senate and the University Council about the need to educate students on diversity and related topics. Dean Meacham recently formed a Committee on Multicultural Education, which will be meeting for the first time this week.

We can make a substantial contribution to the university's efforts by making "Writing about Difference" the topic in all E 306 courses (with the exception of those taught by faculty). After talking with Joe about how we might organize such a course, he asked me to make a proposal to send to the Dean. I'm pleased to say that the Dean is enthusiastic about our course. More recently, I've talked with Jim Kinneavy about how to prepare AIs, since we'll need to "re-orient" experienced and as well as "orient" inexperienced instructors to conduct the kinds of inquiries such a course will require and to evaluate student writing. Jim has agreed to work with me on a pedagogy based on exploratory discourse, appropriate for examining and generating context dependent arguments.

This new E 306 will require, at least in the first couple of years, a standardized curriculum, which I've agreed to write this summer (I welcome advice and any time you are willing to give). I enclose Paula Rothenberg's Racism and Sexism: An Integrated Study, which I would like all AIs to read over the summer and to use as the (content) textbook next year. It's an introductory sociology textbook, not a reader, but I think you'll see that the format lends itself to a writing curriculum. Please look at between now and the meeting.

cc James Duban
Elizabeth Fernea
Susan Heinzelman
Sara Kimball
John Ruskiewicz
John Slatin
Shelli Fowler
Sarah Hinman