



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78712

Department of English  
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TO: Freshman English Staff  
FROM: Freshman English Policy Committee  
DATE: February 1, 1979

The FEPC has evidence of an increasing number of attempts by outside organizations to gain special consideration from individual instructors for certain students. The athletic department has apparently sought at least one instructor's permission to add an athlete to a closed section this semester. Last year the athletic department also interceded twice in behalf of an athlete who did not attend class, and applied considerable pressure to the student's instructors.

We are concerned about attempts to interfere in the normal academic process, whether these attempts arise from inside or outside the University. Questions of academic freedom are involved as are other legal and moral issues. Consequently, with the encouragement of our departmental chairman, Professor Abraham, we are accumulating a file in hopes of determining the scope of this problem.

We urge all instructors contacted by anyone seeking special consideration for students to report the incident to the Freshman English Office. We would like a copy of any written communications involved and a description of any oral ones.