



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
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Office of the Chairman
Department of English
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28 March 1983

MEMORANDUM

To: English Department Teaching Staff

From: Joseph J. Moldenhauer, Chairman *JM*

Subject: Study-Group on Lecturer Matters

As reported in the "Actions of the Senate" distributed on 28 February 1983, that body voted on 25 February to disband the subcommittee on Lecturer matters it had earlier elected from its own membership, and to petition the departmental chair to appoint a study group with the same charge: to bring to the Senate recommendations bearing on the questions of Lecturer status, appointment, reappointment, and evaluation.

In response to the Senate's action, after the expiration of the five-day protest period, I selected individuals from the teaching-staff roster who would comprise, I thought, a study group of substantial size representing the major departmental interests, as was the Senate's intention. Responses from those individuals--and in some cases from alternates--have now been received. The study-group will consist of:

Ms. Susan Blalock, Mr. Paul Meyer (AIs)
Drs. David Beer, John Cook, David Gaines, Linda Vance (Lecturers)
Professors Evan Carton, Zulfikar Ghose, Alan Gribben, Gregory Myers,
John Trimble, John Velz, John Walter, Stephen Witte

As I indicated to the prospective members while issuing invitations, I expect the group to establish its own internal structure, meeting times, and information-gathering approaches. I do not plan to sit with the group. It should report to the Senate, either in a unanimous report or in a majority report and one or more minority reports. Any actions taken by the Senate in response to the group's recommendations would be posted normally for the Department's information and, potentially, for a challenge or protest by any 15 or more Department members. Assuming that such Senate actions are not so challenged, the actions would go as departmental recommendations to the Executive Committee (which holds responsibility for teaching appointment decisions) and to Dean King.

I also told the prospective members that I thought the Senate would wish them to become acquainted with the pertinent facts of the subject and to consult widely with various individuals and groups having interests, opinions, or information

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on these subjects. I categorized these individuals or groups as tenured faculty, tenure-seeking faculty, Lecturers of varying years of service, educational backgrounds, and personal situations, Assistant Instructors and Teaching Assistants, past and present Executive Committee members who have been involved in Lecturer evaluation and appointment, the membership of the disbanded subcommittee (Prof. Lesser, Prof. Whitbread, Dr. Skaggs, Dr. Sharon Wevill, Mr. Jolliffe), and departmental officers including the Chair, Associate Chair, and Director of Freshman Composition. I also urged the group to inform itself early in its deliberations about the University regulations (in the Regents' Rules and the Handbook of Operating Procedures) that bear on the status, rights, and responsibilities of Lecturers.

The study-group will eventually ascertain on which if any problems and solutions there was consensus and on which, if any, the group is divided. It will then present to the Senate its recommendations in a form that reflects the points of agreement and division.

JJM:psw