

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

MEMORANDUM

TO: Department Chairmen, College of Liberal Arts  
FROM: Robert D. King, Dean <sup>RDK</sup>  
SUBJECT: Attached communication from James Sledd

Please make this formal protest to the minutes of the meeting of the faculty available to the faculty in your department.

Calhoun 218

10/27/82

This is my formal protest of the minutes of the meeting of the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts, October 13, 1982.

To the second part of my Question 6, "Why have the English Department, the University Council, and the UT administration ignored the students' overwhelming preference?" Dean King's answer (which I quote directly from notes made on the spot) was, "I don't know." That admission cannot be omitted from the minutes without gross distortion--distortion favorable, as one would expect, to Dean King.

The intervention by James Stephens is also significantly misrepresented. Stephens asserted that it is impossible to teach freshmen to write, because they haven't read enough; and he further asserted that the conviction that freshmen can't be taught to write weighed heavily in the deliberations of the Vick Committee. The only logical conclusion from those assertions is obviously that the Vick Committee was totally illogical in not recommending that freshman composition be abolished altogether. Stephens' intervention should be accurately reported because it exposes the illogicality of the new requirements in English and of the deliberations which led up to them.

There are other points at which the minutes as circulated are grossly inaccurate. E.g., Ruskiewicz argued that the new requirements provide continuity in the teaching of composition. His argument should be accurately stated as well, because again its consequence would be requirement of composition work in the sophomore year as well as the freshman year and the upper division. The minutes as circulated conceal such illogicalities and ineptitudes.

As the student said, "Ye shall know the truth--but don't let it hold you back."

