

Faigley prepares for new English division startup

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Students will be taking English 306 and 360 from the newly formed Division of Rhetoric and Composition this summer, a division that has been charged with improving the writing skills of students across campus.

Classes offered in the summer and fall of 1993 will be no different from classes currently offered by the Department of English. But Lester Faigley, director of the Division of Rhetoric and Composition, said a writing center may open in the fall, depending on the availability of building space.

"I think it will be an important service for students," Faigley said.

The center will offer supplementary writing

instruction to students in the division and eventually offer help to students campuswide.

"I think its a terrific idea in theory," said John Trimble, an associate professor of English who will be teaching composition and literature classes in the fall. "Students need as much editing help as possible, not just in English courses."

According to a division proposal to create the center, substantial writing component courses have "encountered many problems," because of a lack of training for teaching assistants who grade papers and faculty who have difficulty with incorporating writing assignments into their courses.

Not only will the center provide professional assistance to students writing papers, it will also offer faculty in other departments help with teaching writing skills and offer training to teach-

ing assistants and assistant instructors.

The center will also help students with résumé writing skills and job and professional school applications.

Faigley said the division will also expand the use of computer-assisted writing instruction in classes and at the center, a technology that was pioneered at the University.

Students write on networked computers, "compose essays and write back and forth to each other," he said. These "electronically written discussions" help formulate students' thoughts in writing, he added.

The majority of UT writing courses will be computer-assisted within four years, Faigley said. Students will also eventually be able to hook up with students in other universities via network computer, he added.