

English department begins three-fourths time schedule

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All English lecturers will be working three-fourths time this fall because of demands the new English requirements have placed on the staff, the chairman of the Department of English said Wednesday.

The demand on the department stems from the University's introduction of new English requirements for students under the 1983-1985 course requirements. The new plan, approved May 28, 1981, requires students to take E 306, composition; E 316K, literature; and E 346K, intensive writing.

According to department Chairman William Sutherland, the requirements limit students to only one course each year, because E 316K has a prerequisite of 27 hours credit and E 346K is an upper division course.

The English department had to offer both English course packages during last year's transition between the old and new requirements. "Last year we wobbled a bit because some of the colleges were under the new requirements while some were not," said Sutherland.

Sutherland said he needed to keep all 57 of the department's lec-

turers on staff despite this year's light demand because of an anticipated crush next year. The result was the three-fourths time plan.

"My chief reaction is that, economically, it's doing a lot of damage," said lecturer David Cole, who added that he had two babies to support. "But if it ensures that most lecturers will have jobs (next year), then it will be worth it."

Sutherland said: "As we need more sections, we'll go back and give a number of (the lecturers) full time employment, depending on the registration. The question was, do we employ only 'x' number of people or do we spread it out? We decided to spread it out. The fact that we spread it out persuaded some of the lecturers to get jobs (outside the University)."

A former lecturer who requested his name be withheld decided to get a different job rather than take the three-fourths time this year. "Like most other lecturers, I'm in my mid-30s and kind of need job security. I believe the lecturer position should be permanent," he said.

"The real reason was to disenfranchise lecturers so they wouldn't be able to vote in the Faculty Senate," the former lecturer said. "The

chairman says there were fewer courses to be taught, but it was really an effort to get us out of the voting to swing the vote."

Only full-time staff may vote in the Faculty Senate, which will be discussing issues important to lecturers such as de facto tenure, which is the consideration of tenure for temporary lecturers if they have taught for at least six years. Currently, all 57 lecturers are hired on a year-by-year basis — this year at three-fourths time.

"More than 50 percent of the classes are taught by lecturers, but we can't have a say in department policy. We're the lowest salaried people on campus. There are lecturers with Ph.D.s who are breadwinners making \$12,000."

Sutherland said he was aware several lecturers believed they were placed on three-fourths time to prevent them from protecting their interests on controversial issues. But he said the primary purpose of the three-fourths time is to ensure a large pool of qualified lecturers.

"Where are the priorities? Most of our staffing problems are not just a problem with the numbers of teachers but with finding qualified instructors," Sutherland said.