

Senate to amend rules for rehiring English lecturers

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The English department senate Wednesday voted to amend three recommendations concerning the hiring of lecturers, one of which would allow lecturers in the English department to continue teaching at the University for up to 14 semesters.

The UT System Board of Regents defines the position of lecturer as one-year temporary appointments that do not accrue tenure. The lecturer can be rehired when the contract runs out, but the time served as lecturer does not count toward tenure.

The regents' policy of considering lecturers as temporary employees conflicts with the American Association of University Professors' policy which states that if teachers work full time for seven years, they automatically assume tenure in the eighth year.

An executive committee recommendation that stated a lecturer who has already served six or more long-session semesters would only be allowed to serve no more than two additional long-session semesters was amended to allow any lecturer currently teaching to continue as a lecturer up to a total of 14 semesters.

Charles Rossman, a member of the departmental senate, said, "We can accommodate everything we want to do. We can say no any time we want to. We have maximum freedom. It allows us to terminate someone after one semester or keep them for 14."

Another of the amended recommendations, if passed, would reduce the number of long-session semesters a lecturer hired on or after September 1984 would be allowed to teach from eight to six semesters at full time.

Larry Carver, associate professor of English, said reducing the semesters would bring new blood into the department and said the job was "burdensome" and by staying for more than three years, the lecturer would begin to "turn sour."

"I don't see why a lecturer staying year after year after year is worse than a professor with tenure staying year after year," an unidentified member of the departmental senate responded.

The senate also amended the recommendation: "The lecturer position is a temporary, one-year or one-semester non-tenure accruing appointment" to also contain the phrase "with the possibility of renewal" at the end of the recommendation.

The current abundance of lecturers in the English department is a result of a 3.4 percent increase in enrollment at the University in 1978. Lecturers teach mostly undergraduate English classes and receive less pay than associate or assistant professors.

There are approximately 60 lecturers teaching at the University. Four of the lecturers are in their sixth year as lecturer and three are in their fifth, which means unless some action is taken, the lecturers will be working in direct conflict with AAUP policy after May 1985 because they will not have received tenure.

The debate over the recommendations, which will have to be passed by the department senate before they become official department policy, will continue when the senate meets again April 4.