



Ruszkiewicz  
22 February 1983  
Page 2

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78712-1164

22 February 1983

Office of the Chairman  
Department of English  
(512) 471-4991

Memorandum

To: Department of English Teaching Staff  
From: Joseph J. Moldenhauer, Chairman *jm*  
Subject: Substitution of Departmental Senate Meeting for Department Meeting,  
Same Time, Same Place

At the request of the Senate Subcommittee on Lecturers and of the Senate itself, I am changing the status of the meeting scheduled for this Friday, 25 February 1983, PAR 203, from a DEPARTMENTAL meeting to a SENATE meeting. The agenda remains the same. As usual, all members of the department are authorized to attend and to speak at this Senate meeting. Because of the nature of the agenda item, members of the Department are particularly urged to attend and to express their views on the Subcommittee draft proposal circulated late last week to the full membership.

The immediate occasion for this announcement is the memo to the Chair by the Lecturer Subcommittee, printed on the reverse. In the "Actions of the Senate" distributed to the full Department on 31 January was this item from the 28 January meeting:

2. Heard an interim report from the subcommittee on Lecturers, and passed a motion as follows: that after the subcommittee circulates to the Department a general document on Lecturers (now being drafted), the Chair be asked to schedule a meeting of the full Department for the airing of reactions to that draft document. (The Subcommittee would then refine its draft for consideration by the Senate.)

As of the expiration of the protest period, no protests had been registered to this Senate Action.

My announcement of the Departmental Meeting, distributed 14 February (when I was told that the draft document would soon be ready for circulation) reviewed the abovementioned Senate action, set the meeting, and ended with a note that I judged fully consistent with the Senate's discussion of a non-voting departmental meeting on a Lecturer proposal draft, with the Action already cited, and with the departmental Constitution as I understand it: "In keeping with the rules of departmental governance, this will be a meeting for discussion, but not for motions or votes." A member of the Senate soon afterward questioned that sentence. A correspondence ensued. I kept both the Parliamentarian and the Governance Committee apprised of that correspondence. It seems that certain ambiguities and omissions in the constitutional document will have to be remedied to clarify absolutely the question of legislative initiatives by the Department on the one hand and its representative Senate on the other.

(over)

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In view of these procedural and constitutional questions, the Senate Subcommittee faced an unattractive prospect: that the meeting time would be occupied by constitutional debate rather than by substantive discussion of the Lecturer proposal draft issues. This prospect was contrary to the desires and intentions of the Subcommittee and of the Senate when it voted on 28 January to have a discussion meeting scheduled.

JJM:psw

Department of English  
PAR 110  
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22 February 1983

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Joseph J. Moldenhauer, Chair  
Department of English

From: Senate Subcommittee on Lecturers

Subject: Deliberations on Subcommittee's Proposal

It has come to the attention of the Senate that there is some ambiguity in our Constitution pertaining to the Senate's right to prescribe conditions for a department meeting. Therefore on the basis of a straw poll, the Senate requests:

- (1) that the Subcommittee Proposal on Lecturers be removed from the agenda for the 25 February department meeting;
- (2) that a Senate meeting be called for the same time and date to begin deliberations upon the proposal;
- (3) that all members of the department be encouraged to exercise their rights to attend and to speak at this Senate meeting.

This action has been approved by the following Senate members: Professors (Bowden, Cable, Friedman, Hinojosa, Megaw, Whitbread), Associate Professors (Kruppa, Lesser, Renwick), Assistant Professors (Bertelsen, Duban, Lidoff), Lecturers (Skaggs, Wevill), Graduate Students (Jolliffe). There were no "No" votes; other Senate members (Duncan, Carver, Faigley, Farrell, Ghose, Hairston, Ruskiewicz, Sipiora, Stott) could not be reached but have been notified.

WL:psw