

# English department members approve revised governance plan

By PAULA BLESENER  
*Daily Texan Staff*

Members of the Department of English have approved a paradoxical new governance plan — one which allows direct election to its executive committee while vesting more power in the chairman.

"You can see it as a more liberal and a more conservative document

simultaneously," said Wayne Rebhorn, a member of the department committee on governance. "It opens the executive committee to larger numbers of department faculty and gives the chair more power."

The English department is the only department at the University to have a representative committee overseeing its day-to-day operation. All other departments have budget

committees that perform the same function, but are composed of all tenured faculty members.

Under the new system, which was approved 27-19 Friday, eight tenured or tenure-track faculty members will be elected by their peers. In the past, committee members were chosen through a formula system.

The chairman of the department,

William Sutherland, and the associate chairman also will be voting members. In addition, Sutherland will be able to appoint two faculty members to the committee.

"I asked some of my colleagues how they would like being appointed by the chairman to the EC (Executive Committee), therefore not really representing the department," said Kurt Heinzelman, an associate

professor. "They said they would feel uncomfortable. They said they would feel like lecturers."

The department has been struggling with the problem of discontent among the lecturers, who are hired on a part-time basis and are not generally granted tenure-track positions. The number of lecturers has grown steadily, along with enrollment in the department.

Lecturers have no voice in departmental government under the terms of the approved system because they are not allowed to vote or serve on the committee.

Until last September, the department had a representative senate that included all levels of the faculty.

Heinzelman said he sees no need for the changes in departmental structure. The measure probably passed because faculty members sensed the department was "wallowing in the mud" and needed a strong chairman, he said.

"We live in neo-conservative times," Heinzelman said. "I take this to be a part of it — the new Reaganism."

*freewheeling*

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