



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

Department of English
PAR 110
(512) 471-4991

February 17, 1985

Dear Professor Sutherland and the Executive Committee:

Earlier this academic year, I wrote to the Executive Committee asking that the Director of the Writing Lab be given the title of "Specialist" in order to assure continuity in that position. Shortly after I made that request, the Dean of Liberal Arts suspended regular departmental governance and no action was taken on my recommendation--or immediately necessary. I have been able, during this past year, to staff the position of lab director using a lecturer slot--as had been done in previous years. That arrangement has proven satisfactory.

Recent events, however, affecting the employment of lecturers in the English Department make me renew my request now either for a "Specialist" title for the Writing Lab Director or for some assurance (formal or informal) that a lecturer position may be available for Light German during the 1985-86 academic year. I realize that the suspension of E 346K leaves many matters unsettled at this time. But, if possible, I want to ensure continuity in a facility that has served students and faculty members for four years.

Dr. German took over the writing lab in August, 1984, at a difficult time and with very little notice. Yet her previous experience with labs and her substantial teaching experience in our department enabled her to organize her staff quickly and open the facility on time for fall classes. Her work all year has been superb and, as a result, the lab remains the remarkably useful yet economical facility it has always been. In addition to helping individual students in E 306 (and any other students who drop by), the lab now assists instructors teaching the library unit, provides special help to minority students, supports a new effort to control grade inflation, and will shortly serve as the testing facility for two of the department's Project Quest grants. None of this would be possible without the intelligent guidance of a director with a major commitment to the writing lab. Neither graduate students not tenured or tenure-track faculty can quite afford to make such a commitment.

I hope the Executive Committee or the Chair will act quickly to support this important part of our composition program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Ruskiewicz".

John J. Ruskiewicz
Director of Freshman English