The undersigned graduate students in English wish to express their profound disappointment at being systematically excluded from the process of making decisions affecting graduate students and the graduate program. We are particularly disturbed by our lack of participation in the following actions:

- 1. The decision to change the Ph. D. program's requirements;
- 2. The dismissal of graduate students from the Graduate Program Committee;
- 3. The removal of graduate students from the Freshman English Policy Committee, though graduate students are teaching all of the classes governed by this committee this semester.

The exclusion of graduate students from these decision-making processes reflects an insensitivity to the motives, aspirations, and experience of graduate students. These decisions and the processes by which they were made make it impossible for many of us to recommend that others attend this university.

Some of us are making arrangements to leave. Others, for economic and scholastic reasons, do not have this option. All of us believe that the governance of the department and the resultant decision-making processes betray the ethic that informs our liberal arts education.

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cc: President Flawn, Vice-President Fonken, Dean King, Dean Livingston, English graduate faculty