



CENTER FOR TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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October 14, 1985

To: Writing Committee Chairmen  
From: Marilla Svinicki  
Re: Status of English proposal

As one of my assignments after the last meeting, I looked into the status of the English 306-346 proposal and what would happen to it next. I asked Ken Tolo about this and he said that the proposal had been forwarded by Liberal Arts to their office and the President's office for review. Its feasibility is currently being examined. There are so many variables to consider that it may take a while. (This last comment is mine, not his.) He expected it would come up in the University Council, although I got the impression that it was not a requirement, just a likelihood. Therefore, it would probably be prudent to continue to give thought to what your college's response to this proposal might be and to communicate that response to the person(s) who represent(s) your college in the Council. Because it is such a complex situation which on the surface seems simple, they may not have thought of all the implications which you have considered. I'm sure they would appreciate your input. I don't think this will be an easy situation to resolve.

You might also want to consider what steps your college will take, if any, should the proposal pass. It might mean that more substantial writing courses need to be offered in the departments, possibly at the lower division level, in order to be sure that students have had some introduction to UT writing standards and facilities before they hit those junior level courses. It looks to me like the colleges will have a fairly free hand in deciding on what sorts of inducements can be offered to faculty in order to get them to make their courses into substantial writing courses. At least every time I ask about such things, the response I get indicates that the college level is the primary decision level. I will continue to explore this and keep you posted. Please let me know if you hear anything or if your college reaches any vital decisions on this issue.