



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78712

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*Office of the Dean
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Prof. W. O. S. Sutherland
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PAR 110

Dear Bill:

I have studied the proposed new Guidelines of governance for the English Department, and Vice-President Fonken and I have discussed their suitability for your situation. We are concerned about their length--most departments in our College have briefer governance documents, often consisting of only a paragraph or two--but since your department has been operating according to the specifications of a document four times this length, these new Guidelines at least seem to be a step in the proper direction. I can also appreciate the fact that your department at this time probably feels more secure in having five pages of stipulations.

Nonetheless, I have altered some sections of the Guidelines submitted to me. I removed superfluous sentences here and there, substituted various phrases that more closely reflect The Handbook of Operating Procedures, and generally tried to bring the document into line with those of other departments. I also added specific details to the voting system in an effort to create a method more efficacious for a department the size of yours. Most of my revisions are not substantial, and I left intact the basic framework that the tenured English faculty approved on the recommendation of its Governance Committee. I have sent a copy of the revised Guidelines to Alan Gribben.

Vice-President Fonken approved my revised version, but pointed out that the document must specify, as stated in HOP, II.8 (p. 35), the inappropriateness of Executive Committee members voting on matters pertaining to their own or ranks higher than theirs. Accordingly the document has been amended.

There are a few points that I must make clear in approving these new Guidelines. They supersede and replace all other documents that have existed in the English Department. I am particularly concerned that no contravening

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documents be operative that permit graduate students to vote on faculty departmental committees (although graduate students should certainly be consulted and informed about policies decided by committees supervising courses that graduate students teach). Authority over the curriculum is vested in the faculty.

I commend the Department for making its will known to me regarding these governance matters, especially in a period of duress, and I wish it success in conducting its future business under these new Guidelines.

Sincerely yours,



Robert D. King
Dean

RDK:lp