

Faigley to be named chair of rhetoric division

Justin Noble
Daily Texan Staff

The current chairman of the Graduate Studies Committee in the Department of English is expected to be appointed director of the new Division of Rhetoric and Composition next week, officials said Wednesday.

Lester Faigley, who is also an associate professor of English, said he had not yet received written confirmation from the dean ad interim of the College of Liberal Arts Wednesday of his appointment and could not speculate on the directorship of the new division.

But Joseph Kruppa, chairman of the Department of English, and

Evan Carton, a member of the advisory committee for the division, confirmed Faigley's appointment.

"Faigley was unanimously recommended by the committee," said Carton, graduate adviser for the department and professor of English.

"I think very highly of Lester," said Kruppa.

"He's balanced and modest and can really affect the working of the department."

Robert King, dean ad interim of the College of Liberal Arts, is expected to officially announce the appointment of the director next week, Faigley said.

"[Faigley] is a nationally prominent theorist and practitioner who's also active in English Department

"[Faigley] is a nationally prominent theorist and practitioner who's also active in English Department governing."

11/14/93

— Evan Carton, member of the advisory committee for the Division of Rhetoric and Composition

governing," Carton said.

Faigley has been at the University since 1979. He has served as acting director of the Center for Humanities and Language Computing and as chairman of the Rhetoric Interest Group, among other positions. He has also written extensively on composition and its teaching.

The new division will split from the Department of English and will offer numerous writing courses, including English 306, the lower-division composition course.

The original proposal for the division was approved by former UT President William Cunningham in September 1992 and must be implemented by June 1 this year.

"The division isn't a completely existent entity yet," Carton said.

Though the deadline for implementation is still five months away, recruitment has already started for new faculty, he said.

"The division will redefine a new administrative structure," Carton said.

"There will be more faculty support and coordination of those writing courses."

The faculty will be responsible for devising the program, Faigley said, but there will be no major changes in the first year.

Faigley also said the division has the potential to provide "one of the best writing programs in the country."

But with the University already

facing budgetary constraints, questions have been raised as to where the money will come from to finance the new division.

"The University will have to put its money where its mouth is," Carton said.

Budget crunches in the past have kept the administration from replacing faculty when they leave, he said, which has left the Department of English with 15 unfilled positions.

"Faculty hires have not kept up with student enrollment," Carton said.

However, he added that the 15 positions already accounted for in the budget can be used for the new division.