

Alternate writing plan yet to be evaluated

Second English proposal allows credit by examination for E 346K

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An alternative plan to restructure the University's writing program — markedly opposite to the E 346K Committee proposal — was considered this summer but has yet to reach the Department of English for an evaluation and vote.

Four English department faculty members created a plan and presented it to Robert King, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, in May.

In late May, the E 346K Committee, a six-man group chosen to evaluate the University's writing program, was appointed by department Chairman William Sutherland.

Joseph Kruppa, E 346 Committee chairman, said the committee examined the May proposal — prepared by Maxine Hairston, James Kinneavy, John Ruszkiewicz and John Trimble — during its first two meetings this summer, but recommended a proposal that would require fewer instructors. Kinneavy and Hairston testified in support of their proposal before the committee.

"There was something on just about every page that I didn't like,"

Kruppa said.

Both proposals would restructure the University's current English requirements, but the alternative proposal differs considerably from the E 346K Committee proposal developed this summer.

The alternative suggests several changes, including changing the undergraduate English requirement to nine unspecified hours of English and allowing credit by examination for E 346K. The May proposal recommended reinstating E 310, E 317 and E 346K to allow students a wider variety of writing courses.

The English department phased out E 317, a technical writing class, and E 310, an expository writing class, in the fall of 1984. E 346K, a discipline-specific writing course, replaced the two courses.

The alternative also asked the department to retain E 306 as the introductory freshman composition course.

Kruppa said he disagreed with many points in the alternative proposal, specifically the nine unstructured hours and the number of temporary staff members the proposal would require.

Under the E 346K proposal, E 306,

the freshman rhetoric and composition course, would remain a part of the nine-hour requirement, but would be satisfied only by examination, transfer, a summer course at the University or a course taken through UT extension.

The E 346K proposal also offers three new lower-division composition courses, but does not offer a technical writing course. E 346K, postponed while the committee evaluates the writing program, originally included a technical writing option. The E 346K Committee proposal suggests that only a humanities and social science component be offered.

Kruppa said the alternate proposal recommends the English department cater to other UT colleges by offering technical writing courses emphasizing specialized fields.

Kruppa said the proposal would make the English department a "cafeteria," where other schools could choose freely from the line of English courses.

In an English department meeting Wednesday, discussion was limited to the E 346K committee proposal. The developers of the alternate proposal distributed a writ-

ten statement listing their disagreements with the committee's proposal and asking the department to consider their plan.

Kinneavy, professor of English, requested that both proposals be offered to the department for a vote, but the department declined because the alternate proposal was not made available to faculty members at the meeting.

At the meeting, Kruppa said an alternative could be considered if the department votes against the E 346K Committee proposal.

Kruppa said Thursday he doubted the alternative in its current form would ever be considered seriously by the department.

Ruszkiewicz, director of freshman English, said Thursday the four authors of the alternative proposal have not discussed a revision. If the department votes against the E 346K committee proposal, then the four may revise the plan, he said.

Ruszkiewicz said the detailed 10-page plan would be simplified to resemble the committee proposal, a basic outline of the writing program.