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Critics of E 346K Committee claim unfair representation

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The proposal submitted to the UT Department of English by the E 346K Committee has spurred criticism of unfair representation by opponents of the E 346K proposal.

But William Sutherland, English department chairman, said the E 346K proposal had received an "overwhelmingly favorable" response from the department and dismissed such allegations as "untrue."

Sutherland, who appointed five faculty members to serve on the E 346K Committee, was criticized by members of the re-

cently formed Rhetoric Interest Group, a small faction of faculty members concerned with maintaining rhetoric and composition courses within the department.

James Kinneavy, a professor of English and an outspoken member of the Rhetoric Interest Group, said he was not appointed to the E 346K Committee because he was an obvious opponent of the committee's goals.

However, Sutherland said, "I think the people I selected to the committee were close to the problem. It had to be a committee of good people who were representative of the department.

"They faced a very difficult task, but I think they did a splendid job," he said.

The E 346K proposal offers three new lower-division composition courses, but not a technical writing course. Under the proposal, E 306, the freshman rhetoric and composition course, would remain 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 department will conclude a mail-ballot vote on the E 346K proposal Wednesday.

But Kinneavy said his group's alternative proposal was not given ample consideration by the E 346K Committee. The proposal was submitted to Dean of Liberal Arts Robert King last May.

The group's alternative proposal suggested several changes, including changing the undergraduate English requirement to nine unspecified hours, allowing credit by examination for E 346K, and recommending the reinstatement of technical and business writing courses.

"I really don't think that the rhetoric interest group was represented (in the proposal)," Kinneavy said. "I really don't see that our deliberation had any influence."

Sutherland said that Lester Faigley, one of the faculty members selected to the Committee, represented the concerns of the Rhetoric Interest Group. He said the members of the group also were invited to

a department meeting held a week ago to discuss the E 346K proposal.

"At the meeting, Mr. Kinneavy appeared before the committee and got a thorough hearing," Sutherland said. "But he never put his proposal on the floor to be discussed."

But Kinneavy submitted a statement to the English department at a Sept. 11 department meeting, listing the group's disagreement with the E 346K proposal.

Joseph Kruppa, E 346K Committee chairman, said the Committee solicited suggestions from the entire department, but those made by the group "represented the concerns of four individual faculty members."