

English senate votes to limit lecturers' teaching time

By TODD PRATT
Daily Texan Staff

The senate of the Department of English Friday voted 11-8 in favor of a set of recommendations that limits the number of semesters a lecturer will be allowed to teach but requests the University to provide an additional five assistant professor positions annually.

In effect, the recommendations limit the number of semesters a person currently serving as lecturer can teach but asks the administration to give "supportive consideration" to a lecturer's request for an assistant professorship after the sixth year.

Lecturers hired after September 1984 will be allowed to teach a maximum of six long semesters and will not be given extra consideration for tenure track applications, which would grant them the title of assistant professor.

Professors on tenure tracks usually receive tenure after seven years of teaching or leave for another institution. Lecturers, who teach mainly

'I really do believe a minority in the (English) department is exploiting a large group of people and depriving them of free speech.'

— James Kinneavy, professor of English

lower division composition courses, usually are denied tenure track positions.

The recommendations become departmental policy immediately.

But the recommendations could be overruled at a meeting of English department members, consisting of 85 tenure track professors and 66 lecturers.

James Kinneavy, professor of English, read from a prepared statement during the senate meeting and said the recommendations limiting the number of semesters a lecturer would be allowed to teach would be a threat to the quality of the composition classes because the lecturers would be forced to quit "as soon as they have learned to be good teachers."

Kinneavy also said the recommendation threatened free speech and fa-

vors literature over composition.

"I really do believe a minority in the department is exploiting a large group of people and depriving them of free speech," Kinneavy said after the meeting.

"They are not concerned with the quality of instruction in composition classes; they are only concerned with literature teachers," he said. "They're denigrating rhetoric in favor of literature."

Kinneavy said a departmental meeting probably would be called within a week. All department members, including lecturers, are allowed to vote at departmental meetings.

The UT System Board of Regents' policy states the position of lecturer is a one-year, non-tenure accruing appointment which can be renewed indefinitely. The regents policy is in

conflict with that of the American Association of University Professors which states a person teaching full time for seven years automatically receives tenure during the eighth year.

Part of the recommendations passed at the senate meeting state that a person first hired on or after September 1984 may serve in the position of lecturer no more than a total of six long-session semesters at full time, and that anyone currently serving as lecturer may serve no more than a total of 14 semesters at full time.

Lecturers would be allowed to continue teaching part time indefinitely but would be paid less accordingly.

A vote on an amendment, which would strike the recommendations limiting the semesters a lecturer could teach, was defeated 11-9.

The senate passed 19-0 an amendment stating the English department requests the administration to authorize five additional tenure track lines each year beginning with the 1984-85 recruitment.

"If we are authorized to make addi-

tional appointments presumably we will be in a stronger position to hire high quality people," said Alan Friedman, professor of English and author of the amendment.

The senate also passed 13-6 an amendment stating, "Lecturers in their sixth year of full time service be encouraged to apply immediately for assistant professor tenure track positions and that their applications be given supportive consideration by the Executive Committee, especially in light of the six years of full time service these people have already given to the department."

Kurt Heinzelman, chairman of the local chapter of the AAUP and author of the amendment, said the amendment was needed to help the lecturers currently teaching their sixth year.

But several senate members said the request for the five annual appointments would be futile because they said the administration would not grant more tenure lines to the lecturers who taught lower division courses.