Tenure still denied to English lecturers

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The Department of English Thursday passed a set of recommendations that will allow lecturers to continue teaching indefinitely, while still not being able to acquire tenure.

The recommendations immediately become the policy of the Executive Committee of the English department, which controls the hiring and firing of the English staff.

The recommendations define the lecturer position as a one-year, non-tenure accruing position with the possibility of renewal and state the "appointments of lecturers will be renewable without limitation to any fixed length of service."

The new policy defining the lecturer position agrees with the one defined in the UT System Board of Regents Handbook. But the recommendation that allows lecturers to teach an unlimited number of semesters is in opposition to a policy of the American Association of University Professors, which states teachers automatically should receive tenure after their seventh year of teaching.

The English senate last month passed a recommendation limiting to 14 the number of long-session semesters a lecturer would be allowed to teach. Thursday's departmental meeting, the second in two weeks on the lecturer issue, was called because enough people in the Department of English signed a petition calling for a full-scale departmental meeting.

Lecturer Rod Davis said the recommendations' passage was a victory for the lecturers and that it showed they could have some say in English departmental policy.