

September 28, 1992

Re: Discussion points for meeting with Lester Faigley, Linda Ferreira-Buckley, Jim Kinneavy, John Ruszkiewicz

- The division is being established to provide undergraduate students with expert instruction in writing. The university is committed to such a program separate from the traditional structure of the English department.
- The English department's management of its writing program has been inconsistent, unfocused, and tendentious.
- The division represents a clean slate, a chance to leave behind much conflict and animosity. The university acted deliberately not to avoid faculty debate, but to give the division this fresh start.
- The division will be run by people professionally committed to rhetoric and composition. As a result, the writing division will use its people and resources more sensibly and flexibly.
- Some overlap in administrative functions (hiring, scheduling, duplicating) between the current English department and the division is inevitable, but this is not a serious argument against the division, given its major goal.
- The division will not be a service department. It will be an aggressive, high-profile program with both scholarly and pedagogical dimensions.
- It will require the hiring of tenured and tenure-track faculty to ensure the quality of its offerings and to maintain the reputation of the English Department's graduate program in rhetoric.
- The university's commitment to a division is firm. The division will have the resources it needs to meet its mission.
- The division will be governed by its faculty who will give it shape and character. This is obviously the time to get in on that process.