

# UT faculty divided on students' writing

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University of Texas faculty members are dissatisfied with their students' writing ability, but they're not sure what to do about it yet.

That was the conclusion of a University Council ad hoc committee report given Monday. Besides recommending that present UT lower-division English requirements be retained, the group also agreed that a committee be appointed to study ways in which the writing of undergraduate students can be improved through a university-wide effort.

"The responsibility for improving the writing cannot be relegated solely to the English Department," said English professor Maxine Hairston,

committee head. All faculty members must be concerned about student writing, she added.

The committee formally recommended that the present lower-division English requirement of six hours of freshman composition and three hours of sophomore literature or writing be retained.

A dissatisfied James Sledd, an English professor, moved that the committee report not be accepted. He urged UT President Lorene Rogers to appoint a "serious committee to make a serious study" of the problem.

"One big set of reasons why (the English program) is not working is overworked, underpaid and under-prepared teachers," Sledd said.