

## **Proposal to the General Education Committee regarding waiver of English 122**

On rare occasions (usually once or twice a semester at the most), we get students who seek to waive English 122, and these requests are usually legitimate. Because of a variety of circumstances, these students (typically transfers) may have missed getting credit for English 122, but they have clearly reached a stage where that course would no longer have any significant benefit for them.

### **Current Process for Waiver of English 122**

Currently, when a student inquires about this possibility, the Director of Composition asks the student to submit a group of at least three papers that demonstrate collectively the student's ability to make and sustain a successful argument in writing and to use outside sources effectively and appropriately (including proper documentation). The Director accepts papers from any discipline and with any documentation style because the concern is not to see only papers written in an English course but to gauge whether the student is able to work with sources and a discipline's documentation style successfully. The Director then submits all the documentation to the General Education Committee to make the final decision. Since some members of the committee have expressed the view that this is not a decision they feel qualified to make, typically the committee follows the recommendation of the department.

To streamline the process for waiving English 122, we offer the following proposed change in the process: The Director of Composition will continue to use the same process to make his/her decision but will send the recommendation to the Department Head rather than to the General Education Committee. If the Department Head concurs, s/he will notify the Records Office that English 122 should be waived.

This proposal was endorsed by the faculty of the English Department on April 4, 2006, by a vote of 21-0.