

# Mandatory English Is OK'd

As the result of a ten-month placement in a higher level than study, the College of San Mateo indicated by the test score.

English faculty voted, by a 3 to 1 margin, for mandatory placement in English based mainly on test scores and high school grade point averages for freshmen entering CSM this Fall.

The study was conducted by the English division's directions committee.

"While some other institutions of higher learning in the Bay Area are either eliminating English or still allowing entering students to grade themselves, CSM is raising standards," said Wilson Pinney, directions committee chairman.

The new policy, Pinney pointed out, has a variety of options, including a review of the student's writing; reassessment of his test score, and recommendation by the counselor for

placement in a higher level than indicated by the test score.

However, added Pinney, the student with the high school grade point average of "B" or better, no matter what his test score showed, will be permitted, automatically, to enroll in English II, the university transfer course.

This method of placement is experimental, noted James K. Bell, directions committee member and co-chairman of a committee to implement the new program. "We want to determine how close the connection is between the high school grade point average and success in the freshman English transfer course. We'll be watching results closely for the next two to three years to determine if the G.P.A. is a better indicator of success than placement test scores," said Bell.