

Gribben suggests control of E306 go to arbitrator

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Daily Texan Staff

The controversy over changing English 306 — a freshman composition course — peaked when an opponent of the changes recommended giving control of the Department of English to an outside arbitrator such as the chairman of the Department of Psychology.

"The English department should be placed in receivership indefinitely, with someone like Donald Foss [chairman of the psychology department] as its director for several years; and then be governed by a new English Chairman appointed directly by Gerhard Fonken, Executive Vice President and Provost....," stated a letter on the subject.

The letter, dated July 9, 1990, was written by English Professor Alan Gribben, who opposes changing the E306 reading materials to focus on issues of racism and sexism. He sent

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the letter to Anne Blakeney, who is a member of what Gribben refers to as the "Liberal Arts Foundation Council."

Blakeney was unavailable for comment Sunday.

The letter was obtained by Scott Henson of the *Paleontologist* when he accessed the files of Standish Meacham, College of Liberal Arts dean, through the Texas Open Records Act.

Foss said he did not know anything about the letter. "I do not know Dr. Gribben," he said. "We have never met."

However, Gribben said Sunday that since Meacham postponed the E306 changes until next fall, he no longer feels the department should be placed under receivership.

"I approve of his decision to postpone the new version of the

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course," Gribben said. "And if the chairman of the English department makes an effort to protect those of us who have opposed this new course, then I would say today that something short of receivership would suffice."

Meacham would not comment on the subject except to say, "I think the letter speaks for itself and the person who wrote it."

The chairman of the English department, Joseph Kruppa — who would lose control over his department under Gribben's recommendation — would not comment on

the letter.

Linda Brodkey, chairwoman of the Lower Division English Policy Committee — which initiated the E306 changes — said the recommendation to place the department under receivership is "outlandish."

Gribben said that at the time he wrote the letter, no one in his department had voiced support for his stance and his letter was simply an effort to gain support for his dissent.

"It was a lobbying effort on my part," he said.

Gribben said now that the E306 issue is "settled," his job is done.