

UT English teacher plans move to Denton school

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plan by calling it "Orwellian," Duban was ousted from his honors position.

The multicultural proposal would have required new freshmen to take three hours of courses about U.S. minorities or Third World cultures starting this fall. Duban criticized the plan because it would have excluded the study of European immigrants to the United States. A few months ago, a full faculty voted to reject the plan.

Kruppa said Duban's departure doesn't have anything to do with political correctness.

King said Duban is the sec-

ond professor in two years to leave the UT English department because of political correctness. He said former UT English Professor Alan Gribben was the first.

Gribben resigned his tenured post a year ago after a 17-year career at UT. At that time, he became the focus of a debate over English 306, a freshman English course traditionally taught mostly through the works of Western European writers.

Gribben opposed a plan that would have taught students to write by reading about social and cultural diversity and civil rights issues.

UT English professor heading to Denton

By A. Phillips Brooks
American-Statesman Staff

University of Texas English Professor James Duban will become chairman of the University of North Texas English department in August, officials of the Denton school confirmed Friday.

Duban had not informed UT officials Friday that he is resigning. Some said his departure is an example of a troubled UT English department split over its direction.

Said Duban, when asked about his new job: "I appreciate your interest in my very exciting prospects, but I prefer not to comment until I have communicated with (UT) formally."

One administrator said Duban's departure represents a casualty in a war over political correctness.

"I think it's perfectly obvious that (political correctness) has a lot to do with it," Liberal Arts College Dean Robert King said of Duban's departure. The Liberal Arts College includes the English department.

"Nobody asked him to leave, nobody fired him. He just felt like he had to go," King said. "The tolerance level for a traditional approach to literature seems to be greater at a smaller school."

University of North Texas officials said they are pleased that Duban accepted their offer.

"We are excited about his coming here," said Professor Helen Leath, who chaired the search committee that recruited Duban. "He has so much drive and energy, and brings a vision to the university."

Some UT officials said they were surprised by Duban's departure, particularly since he did not follow university practice in announcing his resignation in early May.

"I'm surprised that he hasn't resigned," said Joseph Kruppa, chairman of the UT English department. "We like to get notice before May 1. That's the cutoff date."

"This affects plans for the next year in all sorts of ways," said Kruppa, who said he had heard rumors of Duban's departure.

Duban, a senior, tenured professor, became entangled in controversy at UT last fall over a plan to require UT students to take multicultural courses. Until that time, Duban had spent eight of his 16 years as head of the UT English honors program. A day after Duban criticized the multicultural

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