

# Former UT professor urges students to battle PC

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Daily Texan Staff

If political correctness is becoming rampant at the University, it is up to students to make changes to ensure a balanced curriculum, a former UT professor said Monday.

Alan Gribben told a group of about 65 students and faculty members that students can play a major role in shaping the curriculum if they are unhappy with course content.

"Students can make use of the natural inclination of faculty to take students' interest into account. If students register that they don't approve you'd be surprised how fast the whole PC issue will dry up and blow away," he said.

He added every generation of students inherits "a huge responsibility"

and dealing with political correctness is especially difficult.

"Several times it's been students who've saved the university. Look at the students who stood up to McCarthyism. I had the Vietnam War but you have inherited one fully as difficult," he said.

Gribben taught at the University for more than 17 years but left last summer for Auburn University at Montgomery, Ala. amid controversy surrounding revisions to the English 306 course.

During the summer of 1990, the Lower Division English Policy Committee proposed changing the freshmen English syllabus to include works focusing on issues such as racism and sexism. Gribben said he opposed these changes because it shifted the focus away from rhetoric and composition skills.

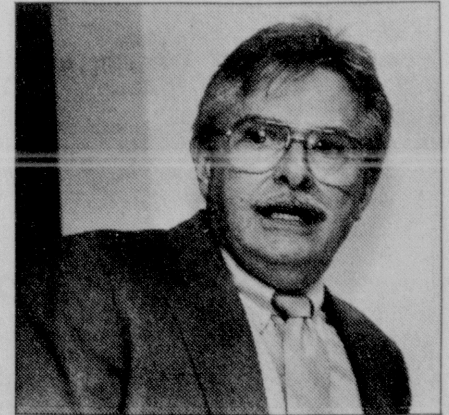
But Gribben said his stand against

the curriculum revisions and a departmental vote in 1987 against integrating a master's degree in ethnic and Third World literature resulted in ostracism by his colleagues in the department.

"With the help of well-organized character assassinations, I was demonized on this campus. The Alan Gribben created on this campus was unrecognizable to me and I experienced being a symbol," he said. "I believe we've entered an academic era of heartlessness."

Gribben said the furor surrounding the proposed E306 changes and his subsequent decision to leave the University have received such wide attention that colleagues around the country frequently contact him to share simialar stories.

"I have been contacted by professors and their stories make mine look like child's play. There are pro-



**Gribben spoke about PC Monday.**

fessors in English departments for whom a race and gender course isn't of paramount importance to them," he said. "If students, alumni and taxpayers knew what's going on in the name of academia they would be horrified."