

vitriolic personal attack (*Texan*, Feb. 15) reveals the true vindictive spirit of those who seek to destroy E-346K and the writing program of which it is an integral part and, as a consequence, to fire the lecturers who have been teaching faithfully this and other writing and literature courses.

He dodges every point that I discussed in my article. He implies that I was in error about the high salaries paid tenured faculty (actually a matter of public record) and the relative costs of keeping or dropping the course. In fact, my figures were, I have since discovered, conservative estimates; the real costs are much higher. Gribben earns 50 to 75 percent more than a lecturer (with nearly identical qualifications and as many or more years of experience); indeed, the resulting cost to the present proposal to "postpone" 346K will be almost 20 percent more (approximately \$1,000,000 total) than I had indicated last week.

Gribben criticizes all lecturers for exercising any "self-interest" in maintaining their positions. Think about this, folks. A colleague in one's own department publicly states that he thinks it is only self-interest that motivates co-workers (at a lower salary level) to even attempt to maintain their low-paying positions. From the

comfort of his tenure in the Ivory Tower, he has the gall to attack colleagues who are trying to continue their careers in higher education, despite the continuous undermining of their efforts by their own colleagues, and then he pretends that such an attack is really a service to the University.

His attack on the senior rhetoric/composition faculty is the cheapest shot of all. He alleges that these teacher-scholars are operating from a questionable self-interest because they might earn money from their increasingly popular textbooks. Did you hear this, President Flawn?

Let's awaken. We, the University community, can win this struggle to achieve excellence through a strong commitment to the teaching of writing on the undergraduate level. We need 346K or, in the event of a single year's postponement, we should offer our students other writing courses which many have taught so well for so long and are eager to continue teaching: 307, 308, 310 and 317. Finally, Gribben owes all lecturers an apology for his self-serving, elitist attack on our integrity and his denigration of our many years of devoted service to the University.

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E 346K helps excellence

Associate Professor Alan Gribben's