

# Salty Sledd strikes again

Amid the insults and barbs that University English professor James Sledd has tossed at certain individuals on campus, he occasionally unearths a problem in desperate need of a solution. In his most recent endeavor, Sledd dives headlong into faculty teaching loads, or lack thereof.

Sledd says he has been given three hours credit on more than one occasion by his department for directing a graduate student's dissertation. The only problem is Sledd says he did not agree to direct the dissertation and the student never produced any work.

In fact, Sledd says the last time a student registered for his direction was in December 1977, and "Even at that time, the registration was without my knowledge and in violation of an explicit agreement that I would no longer direct that student's dissertation."

Although he sent a letter of complaint through academic channels to the president, Sledd said his protest fell on deaf ears.

Sledd brings to surface some curious questions involving teaching loads for professors directing dissertations. For instance, how can a professor go through an entire semester without knowledge of a graduate student doing work under his direction?

In the situation before us, the student failed to contact Sledd until the end of the semester when a grade was requested. At this point, for obvious reasons, Sledd refused to issue a grade to the student, yet Sledd received three hours credit.

Sledd is not to blame for this situation, but the English department is.

Another reason Sledd was unaware of the student who supposedly was doing work under him is because no record sheet is issued from the department to professors specifically outlining which

professor is directing which student's dissertation.

The current system involves a grade sheet that lists the names of people working on dissertations, but the list is not broken down by faculty members, only by course number.

Clearly, Sledd's predicament could have been avoided if only the department had issued a list with the name of the professor and the students he is directing, instead of one list with the names lumped together.

One other question we have for Sledd: Sledd sent photocopies of the official records of all students registered for dissertation in the English department for this spring, last fall and last summer to a University classics professor, who rebuked the salty professor for neglecting his duties. These records were proof that Sledd was tending to his business since no students were registered for dissertations under him.

Mr. Sledd, did you receive permission from each student to send "photocopies of the official records of all students registered for dissertation in the English department..?"

Those records probably contained information, such as a Social Security number, that is protected under the Buckley Amendment, which prohibits release of certain material without written consent of the student.

Sledd's charges of false teaching loads in the English department warrant an investigation by Robert King, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. If what happened to Sledd is widespread in all departments of the University then it should be stopped.

Not all professors on this campus, however, have the guts to speak out as Sledd has, and expose a situation which they feel compromises the integrity of the individual as well as the department.