

# Liberal arts dean decides to resign

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The dean of the College of Liberal Arts announced Tuesday that he would resign from the position "by the end of the summer at the latest," because of "personal reasons," after serving only two years in the post.

"I just came to an understanding that this was what I had to do," Standish Meacham said on Wednesday.

Meacham was named by UT President William Cunningham as dean of the college in June 1989 and was only the second dean since the college's 1979 inception. That followed the retirement of Robert King, who held the position for 10 years.

More than 12,000 students, representing 25 percent of the student population, are enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts — the largest of 14 UT colleges and schools. Meacham refused to speculate on a replacement.

In a statement released by Cunningham Wednesday, he stated that, "It is with regret that I accept Dr. Meacham's resignation. He has made many outstanding contributions to the University and has served the institution with dedication and distinction for many years as professor, department chairman and dean. I greatly appreciate his

leadership and support, and I look forward to our continued association."

Before leaving as dean, Meacham announced plans to "continue to work to promote the programs and policies that I believe are important for the future of the college and the University."

"There is a strong commitment among the faculty to undergraduate teaching," he said. "One thing I want to put in place before I leave is a stronger system of teacher evaluation and teaching rewards."

Meacham said other policies include the continuing use of exit surveys and the establishment of a fellowship to give semesters off for research to assistant professors who "knock themselves out" teaching so that they may contend with other instructors. He added that instructor promotions "could and should promote largely on the basis of continuing excellence in teaching."

"One of the most interesting changes [during the past two years] has been the renewed consciousness on the part of everyone on the importance of taking student concerns about their education seriously," Meacham said.

He said that the 23 new faculty positions in the College of Liberal Arts can be attributed to student outcry. "Students have the right to expect a decent undergraduate education and they have articulated that



Dean Standish Meacham resigns.

right very clearly and effectively," he said.

In a controversial move last July, Meacham announced his decision to postpone a disputed new curriculum for English 306.

In a news release at that time, he stated that the postponement was necessary "to address concerns and misunderstandings about the course expressed with the University community."

When asked about his current stance on multiculturalism, he said, "I will continue to push for minority faculty recruitment. In the prelimi-

nary stage, things look good.

"This whole question of what it means to be a multiracial or multicultural university is very exciting," he added. "By the year 2000, 80 percent of public students will be students of color. You have to think about what that means for this university."

The selection of Meacham for the deanship last June concluded a nine-month search that included consideration of three candidates outside the University and three within the College of Liberal Arts — Frank Bean, professor of sociology; Betty Sue Flowers, outgoing Plan II Honors Program director; and Donald Foss, chairman of the Department of Psychology.

After returning from a two-year leave, Bean was named in November to chair the Committee on the Undergraduate Experience.

Foss refused to speculate on a replacement for Meacham. "I haven't thought about it," he said. "I only learned about it [Tuesday]."

Flowers was out of the country and could not be reached for comment.

Blair Dancy, president of the Liberal Arts Council, said Meacham's resignation was "a loss to the college. He was an incredible dean."

Blair would not speculate on Meacham's replacement but said he thought a new dean would be selected from within the college.