

King to return to position as liberal arts dean

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The controversial former dean of the College of Liberal Arts will return as acting dean June 1 to replace Standish Meacham, who announced in January that he would leave the post to teach full-time.

Robert King stepped down as the college's first dean in 1989 after holding the position for 10 years to return to full-time teaching and research. King, who has been

at the University since 1968, is currently a professor of linguistics, Germanic languages and Asian studies.

Meacham said Sunday that King's experience in the college makes him a good choice for acting dean.

"Bob King knows the ropes," Meacham said. "For that reason I'm grateful that he's willing to take on the responsibilities as acting dean to ensure the continuity we need."

King could not be reached for comment. Meacham resigned due to "personal rea-

sons" and will return to full-time teaching and research at the University. He served as the dean of the college for two years.

Meacham, in a controversial move last July, announced his decision to postpone a disputed new curriculum that targeted multiculturalism 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."

The controversy that surrounded King's

administration began in 1981, when the Council of Graduate Students called for King's resignation after he called the Department of Government "third-rate," although he had retracted the remark.

The council also objected to "slanderous" statements King made against the chairman of the Department of Government.

King came under fire in 1988 for granting 25 teachers \$1,000 annual pay increases for maintaining high grading standards. Opponents to the pay increases charged that the incentive, motivated by King's desire to

keep grade inflation down, prompted teachers to award fewer A's.

From 1976 to 1979, King served as dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and was dean of the College of Liberal Arts from 1979 until August 1989.

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.

A search committee will be formed in the near future to find a permanent replacement for Meacham.