Douglas steps down as Humanities head

By Mike McNamee

History Professor Richard M. Douglas is stepping down from his position as Head of the Humanities Department, The Tech learned last week, to resume normal teaching duties.

Although the news of his resignation was announced to the department in a letter sent out early in October, the general public was not informed until last week, when an excerpt of the Section were overheard referring to Douglas as a “lame-duck” department head. Subsequent investigation by The Tech confirmed this rumor. Douglas asked to be relieved of all administrative duties last spring, and informed his department this fall. His successor has not been chosen.

Douglas, who has headed the department for the last ten years, has been instrumental in many of the changes in the humanities department over that period, especially in the core curricula. When asked for his reasons for stepping down, he replied, “It’s not a job that one likes to be relieved of, but the department should be. He thought this process would be accelerated if he took over the department for a limited time, no more than a year, while he picked Professor Douglas’ replacement.”

Douglas’ resignation, told The Tech, “Professor Douglas, who has been chairman of the Humanities Department for ten years, asked to be relieved before appointing a new head. Hanham will serve as Acting Head for no more than a year. Professor Walter Rosenzweig, when asked to comment on Douglas’ resignation, told The Tech, “Professor Douglas, who has been chairman of the Humanities Department for ten years, asked to be relieved before Professor Hanham was picked for the post of Dean. As Hanham became acquainted with the department, he saw that he needed more time to see what the future and structure of the department should be. He thought this process would be accelerated if he took over the department for a limited time, no more than a year, while he picked Professor Douglas’ replacement.”

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