Senate Requests Easter Extension; Students Polled On Reading Period

By Griffin Smith

A resolution to extend the Easter holidays for two days was passed Wednesday night by the Student Senate and submitted to the administration. If approved, it would provide Riceites with a "spring vacation" totaling nine days.

As the 1960-61 school calendar is now arranged, there are five more class days than in previous years. Easter vacation is scheduled to begin at 6 pm Tuesday, March 28; the resolution would change this to Saturday the 25th. It must still be accepted by a faculty committee and Dr. Croneis.

The Publications Board, Student Association President Harry Lynch, and Professor Jackson Cope will meet February 6 to consider applications for editor of Janus. Results will be announced Wednesday, February 8.

A recommendation that the college parking lot be opened to cars without red stickers during all school holidays was passed and sent to Dr. Sims.

Election committee chairman Judd Stiff announced that the Rondelet election will be held Monday, February 13, and the general all-school elections will be held March 20. The committee has discussed changing the campaign boundaries and changing the method of electing cheerleaders, but decided that the present method is best. It was suggested, however, that newly elected cheerleaders attend a cheerleading school during the summer.

The Thresher's financial statement as of December 31 was presented, showing a net income of $448.61. The Senate's own financial statement showed an excess of income over expenses of $609.51, not including the 1959-60 Thresher loss.

The Thresher is considering
Rice students Wednesday overwhelmingly approved retaining a reading period in the academic calendar, and expressed their desire that the period consist of at least two classless days, excluding Sundays.

Opinion was divided, however, on the question of extending the period at the cost of shorter vacations or a lengthened school year.

Of the 342 voting in a poll conducted by The Thresher, 91 per cent said that they benefited from study time provided by last semester's reading period, and 95 per cent favored retaining the period.

Over two-fifths were willing to lengthen the period at the cost of a longer school year or shorter vacations.

Of those students favoring the reading period, 57 per cent wanted two days, with Sunday not counted when dead week ends on a Saturday. Twenty-six per cent voted for a three-day period, eight per cent favored four days and eight per cent wanted more than four days.

The academic calendar for the current semester calls for Dead Week to end on a Thursday and for exams to start on Saturday. Only one per cent of those who favored a reading period wanted a single day.

When asked for their opinion about a two-week period with no classes, in which students write a paper or solve a problem in each of their courses, as a review of the semester in preparation for exams, only 17 per cent indicated that they would want to try such a plan.

Among the comments received in the poll was the suggestion that dead week be made a period with no written assignments or lab reports, so that it could be used as a reading period. Reservations about a two-week period with papers to write apparently centered around the fear that such period would turn into heavy assignment of more course material.