Talmage suggests shorter program, academic courses for Frosh week

By BESSIE REPANA
Thresher Reporter

Proposals were made Tuesday to reduce Freshman week to five days and to introduce two academic courses as part of the week's program.

Dr. Roy V. Talmage, master of Wiess College and chairman of the committee of college masters, made the proposals at a meeting of college presidents, masters and orientation advisors. He later told the Thresher that he did not necessarily approve of these ideas, but had merely brought them out to create discussion.

No Change

The people at the meeting agreed, however, that the orientation period should remain seven days and its traditional non-academic format. Dr. Trenton Wann, master of Jones College, characterized the result of the meeting as "no change — just to try and make it better."

The purpose of the meeting was to review what had taken place during orientation week. Three aspects were discussed in particular: length, content, and involvement of faculty associates.

The original purpose of freshman week was described as to give students a small taste of what to expect at Rice. The academic taste was, however, discussed at length.

No Solutions

Objections were raised on the orientation provided by the "dialogues." They were evaluated as a good idea, but the form they took this year was considered not very helpful, because of a lack of planning and co-ordination. They were not organized until late in the summer. The masters plan to learn from their experiences this year.

The University has apparently made no demands on the faculty associates to be present during freshman week. In fact, no one at the meeting seemed to know what the associates were for. Dr. Talmage told the Thresher, however, that he felt the essence of the meeting's accomplishment was "to strive for more faculty participation during the orientation program."

Chuck Young, Baker orientation director, commented that "no solutions were found for these problems, but this is the goal to strive for."