New Engineering Outlook

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Changes in course content, new faculty members, and several new courses are in store for the 1960-61 engineering program, according to Dean of Engineering LeVan Griffis.

The general outlook is for modification of 3rd- and 4th-year courses to provide increased emphasis on the science underlying modern engineering, through courses taught in an engineering contest.

Second, by making the Engineering Graphics course one semester, it will be possible to advance engineering work into the Sophomore year. Engineering Mechanics will be paired with the graphics course to complete the year.

Third, the engineering department chairmen have arranged a program designed to improve the engineering mechanics courses and to relate them more closely with Physics 100. The primary purpose is to avoid duplication of work, but a side feature will be the inclusion of the study of fluid mechanics. (See related article, this page.)

Independent Work

The electrical engineering department is the most active. A major addition will be EE 593—“theoretical investigations under staff direction.” Although this course is listed in the current catalog, it has rarely been offered. All this will change next year, as it is made an integral part of the electrical engineering curriculum, in the same manner as the independent study programs in humanities.

“What we the trying to do,” commented EE Department Chairman Paul Pfeiffer, “is to relax a bit on what is spelled out

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for our majors and give them this opportunity for individual work and responsibility.”

Diverse Faculty Additions

New faculty members will be added in all departments. Mechanical Engineering will bring Mr. Peter Vermillion, a research assistant from Cambridge University, England.

Dr. J. D. Hellums of Michigan and Dr. Bernard Atkinson of Manchester, England, will take positions in the Chemical Engineering Department as assistant professor and postdoctoral fellow, respectively.

The Civil Engineering Department will gain the services of Dr. W. R. Austin of the University of Illinois. Dr. Austin, a graduate of Rice in 1941, has been doing special research work in the field of structural concrete.

Stronger Grad Program

The Electrical Engineering Department will add two instructors—F. E. Emory, a 1959 Rice graduate; and A. J. Welch, who received his BS degree from Southern Methodist.

A primary purpose of the addition of new faculty members, Dean Griffis explained, is to build a graduate program in engineering as a strong supplement for the 5-year undergraduate division.