Crowded classes may necessitate scheduling for less popular hours

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Thresher Reporter

The increase in the number of students at Rice may necessitate a more economical use of classroom facilities, including more afternoon and a.m. classes.

James C. Morehead, Jr., Registrar, stated that the demand for the popular B,C,D, and E hours is critical now. With more incoming students each year the less popular times will be filled as it becomes necessary to distribute the classes over the time available.

“In fact,” said Morehead, “we may come to the point where the registrar will have to schedule the classes instead of the individual departments.” Another administration official added that the departments should take a hard look at their course offerings and the significance of their requests.

Relief In Sight

As to physical plant facilities, the proposed math-science building will be “of great help” with a number of seminar and lecture rooms. The Space Science building will add a few conference rooms and a 66 seat lecture room.

When the library addition is complete it will have a few seminar rooms and will allow some of the present offices in Fondren to be reconverted to classrooms. The new administration building will have no effect on rooms.

One solution now in limited use is to have classes in the colleges. Morehead, who thinks it is wrong to “divorce a student’s social and academic life,” would like to use the colleges with complete freedom as long as the college is not denied use of its facilities, as has happened recently in the Jones Library. He states that “it would do the colleges good to have academic courses in them.”

Not Simple Ratio

James R. Sims, Campus Business Manager, stressed that in scheduling facilities one must consider such things as the numbers and size of sections in larger courses and the proper relation between class size and subject matter. The problem is thus more complex than a simple ratio of square feet to students.

As space becomes limited it is evident that although it would be nice to have freedom in choosing schedules it would be “neither economical or practical.” The ideal B,C,D, and E hours then may become more scarce, but both Morehead and Sims have no doubt that Rice will be able to continue to supply adequate plant facilities for excellent educational opportunities.