LANGUAGE TO STAY

Faculty Ponders Rules Revisions

by GARY SHAPIRO
Thresher Reporter

Proposals for revisions of Rice's curriculum and final examination procedure are currently under consideration by major faculty committees. The changes affecting final examinations have been referred by Dean M. V. McEnany's Committee on Examination and Standings to the Faculty Council for consideration this week. They concern a two day extension of the reading period and the self-scheduling of exams.

Planning

The Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum, chaired by Dr. John L. Margrave, is considering curriculum change proposals for presentation next year. "The committee's intention," said Dr. Margrave, "is to consider a variety of proposals and make recommendations for implementation as quickly as possible, while recognizing at all times the importance of careful planning."

Course Reduction

Dr. Margrave emphasized that both President Pitzer and the members of the committee favor planned educational experimentation, and are considering a pilot program of course reductions for honor sections. The program would require five courses the first two years and only four the last two, with the intention of improving student-faculty contact through a possible increase in tutorials.

Language Proposals

Also under consideration is a proposal allowing the Science-Engineers an option for choosing the year to begin their language. The plan would allow SE's to tackle the language requirement their freshman year instead of taking history, which would be deferred a year. This, according to Dr. Margrave, would prevent those SE's who suddenly become Academs from being a year behind in a language.

The proposal for the elimination of the third year language requirement is apparently up against a brick wall with the faculty "having no strong feelings for reduction."

There are strong feelings, however, concerning the Woodward Plan. The plan has been referred back to Dr. Val Woodward's committee, now a subcommittee of the Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum.

Lack of Specifics

Dr. Margrave indicated that the problem with the subcommittee's proposals was the lack of specifics, citing the fact that sociology and anthropology are not even mentioned and that mathematics is dealt with in one sentence.

"The generalities need to be filled out before the committee can ask for any specific changes." Dr. Margrave added that President Pitzer has made funds available for travel to other universities to study their programs," so that we can avoid the mistakes of others."