President’s First Report Spotlights Technology, NASA

By RICHARD DARILEK

It was with pleasure that self-styled “freshman” college president Kenneth Sanborn Pitzer submitted his first annual report to the Rice University Board of Trustees for the year 1961-62.

In the form of a 34 page printed booklet, “The Report of the President” is a recent addition to the swelling bibliography of Rice University publications. The work presents a factual, interpretive coverage of the activities and events which marked Dr. Pitzer’s first year as Rice’s chief executive.

HE BEGINS with a statement that “Rice University has reached a threshold of new challenges and new opportunities in scholarly and scientific endeavor,” and that as “1961-62 unfolded, the impact of Rice’s position as the leading independent university in the southwest spelled out what some of those challenges and responsibilities would be.”

Prominent among his examples was the National Aeronautics and Space Administration — the mutual significance of Rice to NASA and of NASA to Rice.

FURTHER outlining the key events of last year, Dr. Pitzer cited other much-publicized activities; for example, Rice’s participation in the National Science Foundation’s Mohole project, Dr. Edward Teller’s November visit, the Ryon laboratory.

Going into the topic of teaching, the president covered the general accomplishments in this field and added a significant policy statement; namely, “that our affiliations with the space program will tend further to emphasis(sic) the physical sciences and engineering, but we are determined to give full attention to

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There was definite increase in the money made available to Rice for research in specific areas and disciplines in 1961–62. The specific areas were in the main, science and engineering. A grant in excess of $25,000 has served as a model for other government agencies in the allocation of funds for grants in a general area of research.

He further called attention to the difficulty of obtaining grants in the Humanities. As a result, however, the University supports research in Humanities from an unrestricted income, and in 1961-62 increased the budget materially for such investigation.

In the area of "Graduate Studies," he called for the further development of this area at Rice to meet the needs of a growing technology in the rapidly developing space age.

The University's announced goal in the years immediately ahead is the doubling of our present graduate student body. This means he cites for obtaining these goals the addition of 100 faculty members of the highest distinction in a number of specialties, additional laboratory and library space and facilities.

Pitzer noted a marked increase in the scope of graduate studies in the Humanities. Once again he refers to NASA which has made a grant to Rice for the support of 10 graduate students in space-related science and technology training.

Pitzer's final step is to explore the financial means presently available for carrying out these ambitions.

After mentioning the physical plant, he goes on to "development of the resources of the University's various sources of extracurricular wealth: the new Society of Families program, the Rice University Associates, the Alumni Fund Drive, the University's Research Sponsor Program, the individual and collective gifts presented to Rice during the year 1961-62."

Then analyzing "Finances" in specific figures, he reports: The budget for Educational and General purposes adopted by the Board of Governors for 1962-63 is $787,645 larger than the corresponding budget for 1961-62 which represents a 13% increase. In view of the deficit which this experience budget implies, the Board authorized planning of additional fund-raising activities. No mention, however, was made of what some of these fund raising activities might be.

He summed up the publication and the year by saying that we have made substantial progress toward the strengthening of Rice University for the future."