Colleges Re-examine Room Assignments

By JIM HARGROVE

As more and more students attend Rice, applying for more and more rooms in the residential colleges, the problem of room assignments becomes more and more acute.

IN ESSENCE this was the dilemma discussed last Saturday at a meeting of the college masters. The only apparent conflict in regard to the assigning of rooms appeared to revolve around the use of subjective criteria in deciding among applicants.

Last year in some of the colleges, there was an attempt to allow a committee of seniors to decide room assignments on the basis of the individual’s contribution to the college. Indication from president Dave Tilson is that Hanszen, at least, will continue this arrangement next year.

Dr. J. S. Fulton, Master of Will Rice College, however, is opposed to this sort of selection. While agreeing that under particular circumstances exceptions could perhaps be made, he emphasized that the selection should be made more impersonally. For instance, this year all Houston sophomores were required to live off campus until vacancies occurred, even though the risk was incurred of losing some valuable leadership.

“I am opposed,” he said, “to any group sitting more or less in secret and passing judgment on other members of the college. That will divide the college. Nobody wants to live feeling that every act is being critically eyed by some authority. Besides, I doubt that anybody is wise enough to pick people who will not grow into valuable members of the college.”

For the moment, and until new facilities are built to help contain the problem, it appears that the problem will remain in the hands of the individual college governments and masters.