Houston, Now Chancellor, Advocates Increases In Faculty And Research

By ANITA JONES

Dr. William V. Houston, who recently resigned as President of the university, has become Chancellor, a position no one has held before him. The Chancellorship can be simply an honorary title or a very influential force in university affairs.

Dr. Houston has served the university as President since March 1, 1946, and has been the leader in making Rice one of the foremost educational centers in the nation. In 1946, the Board of Trustees selected Dr. Houston to guide the university in developing a strong curriculum in arts and letters with an emphasis on science and research. This he has done.

TODAY AS the first Chancellor of Rice, Dr. Houston's duties, as he defines them, will be to "undertake to do what the new president wishes him to do."

Concerning future policy, Dr. Houston believes the university should keep emphasizing graduate school. The size of the entering freshman class has not been substantially increased since 1925, and as compared to several graduate students at that time, today 400 students attend Rice at a graduate level.

IN DR. HOUSTON'S opinion, the university should continue to build up its academic reputation by increasing its distinguished faculty and capacity for research, and by offering a curriculum which does not include too many diverse fields of study, so that each of the fields offered could be well developed and thoroughly covered.

By offering only selected courses of study, the university produces outstanding specialists in several fields and the work of these men and women helps to increase the academic reputation of the university.

AS IN PAST years, Dr. Houston will continue to represent Rice through his membership in many national scientific organizations: The National Academy of Science, National Research Council, National Science Foundation, the American Physical Society and other scientific and educational societies.

During 1961, Dr. Houston will also serve as vice-president of the American Physical Society and will make several trips to meetings in the coming year.

THIS SEMESTER Dr. Houston is teaching a physics of solids course and advising several graduate students working on research projects.

In the future Dr. Houston plans to continue his work in low temperature or solid state research. He is particularly interested in super-conductivity and the properties of helium at low temperatures, subjects which he has been working on since he studied in Germany on a Guggenheim Fellowship.

"To study what there is, try to understand it, and then to see if you can make any improvements," is Dr. Houston's approach to a problem, both in physics and in the administration of his duties at Rice. The new buildings, the increase of distinguished faculty members and the retention of the highest scholastic standards have resulted from Dr. Houston's outstanding leadership since 1946.

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