WHEATLEY DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

Rice delegates submit freedom statement to TISA

By BILL WHEATLEY
Thresher Reporter

The Texas Intercollegiate Student Association (TISA) held its 18th annual convention March 16-19 in Houston at the Continental Houston Hotel. The Convention was hosted by the University of Houston, who provided speakers and discussion leaders for the programs.

The convention culminated in the election of officers for the coming year. Bill Wheatley, one of the Rice delegates, was elected chairman of District III, of which Rice is a member.

The convention served as a forum for discussion of student opinion, and as a means of establishing official TISA policy on various issues, as expressed in the resolutions which were passed at the final business session.

Submit Resolution

The Rice delegation re-submitted the resolution on the AAUP statement that Rice originally proposed at the Conference on Higher Education in February.

As it reads now, after minor rewriting, the resolution endorses the Statement on the Academic Freedom of Students of the American Association of University Professors, and recommends the adoption of its provisions in all TISA member schools.

A companion resolution, submitted by Baylor, urges the integration of students into the policy-making processes of the university.

Worker Conference

A resolution submitted by Our Lady of the Lake College urges that TISA sponsor a conference on the migrant worker problem at Lady of the Lake College. Hope was expressed that through such programs as this one, college students will become more involved in the problems of the civil community of which they are a part.

TISA President Jim Jones of Trinity College announced to the convention that plans were under way to start a TISA study of student government and academic freedom in Texas. Negotiations with several foundations are in progress that are expected to yield grants up to $50,000.00 to support the study.

Bring Action

There are plans for TISA, financed by the American Civil Liberties Union, to bring before civil courts a test case involving student rights. Action such as this would be undertaken by TISA in conjunction with the study mentioned above.

Plans were announced for a conference with the student organization of the Republic of Mexico, to be held in August. A preliminary meeting has already taken place, which was hailed by the Mexican Press as "The first historic meeting of Mexican and American college students. This conference is being planned in cooperation with the State Department.

Officers Elected

Several amendments to the TISA constitution were approved by the convention. These were designed to bring the constitution up to date with the actual operating procedures of TISA.

The election of officers Saturday afternoon yielded the following results: Jim Jones, past president, was re-elected to the presidency; Jerry Grammar, vice president; Jeannie Pinnebacker, secretary; Skip Massey, treasurer; Dixie Bevella, district coordinator; and Bill Wheatley, chairman District III.