Faculty Approves Easter Holiday, Commerce Dept.

By GRIFFIN SMITH

At a meeting Monday afternoon, the faculty voted to extend the Easter vacation two days and approved plans for a Department of Commerce.

The new Easter holidays will extend from noon on Saturday, March 25, to 8 am on Tuesday, April 4. Passed unanimously by the faculty council, the resolution was then submitted to the meeting of the entire faculty. Some members objected that any change now in the calendar would disrupt laboratory and lecture schedules; however, the faculty voted by a wide majority to approve the resolution.

DR. CAREY CRONEIS, Provost and acting President of the University, announced that the much-discussed commercial major for athletes passed the faculty in a close vote on its second reading. The new department, headed by Mr. J. E. Hodges, presently Associate Professor of Economics, will offer the degree of Bachelor of Commerce (B. Com.) to students admitted each year under the athletic quota.

"THE COURSE is modeled on the standard BA-Commerce programs at schools like Texas and Northwestern," Mr. Hodges said, "but it is not precisely like them—it is a 'hybrid' modified to fit the situation at Rice."

Dr. Croneis pointed out that this course will provide for a number of athletes on the campus now who are interested in going into business and want this type of training, as well as to assure people coming to Rice that they can take a business-level course. "We are not attempting to attract more athletes," said Dr. Croneis. "This is instead part of a constant effort to have our athletes better prepared academically."

AS TENTATIVELY outlined, the program differs from the Rice business administration program which emphasizes accounting — in that it offers practical business courses like statistics, finance, marketing, and management. Majors will be allowed to take no more than six Commerce Department courses; the rest will be standard humanities and sciences offered to everyone. The new department will (Continued on Page 4)
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be in the Humanities division, under Dean W. H. Masterson.

QUESTIONS have been raised concerning the effect of the department on other fields of study, particularly the Economics-Business Administration Department and the Physical Education Department. Mr. Hodges told The Thresher: 'I cannot see that this program will affect the present Economics-Business Administration Department in any way. It is designed to meet a need the present program does not fill.'

The Physical-Education Department will continue as in the past, although it has been unofficially estimated that there will be 50% fewer majors.

A general outline of the Commerce Department's course of study is printed below, although at this stage it is quite tentative and several minor changes may be made.

RICE UNIVERSITY
Undergraduate Program in Commerce
Degree: Bachelor of Commerce First Year
1. Mathematics elective (Mathematics 100, Mathematics 101, or Basic Mathematics)
2. Second elective (Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Physical Science 120)
3. English 100
4. Language elective (French, German, or Spanish)
5. Computer 101 (Introduction to Business)

Second Year
1. Laboratory science or mathematics elective
2. English elective
3. Language elective (continuation of language elective taken in first year)
4. Approved elective
5. Commercial 200 (Financial Control)

Third Year
1. Group A elective
2. Group B elective
3. Group A or an advanced course in psychology
4. Free elective
5. Commerce 310 (Business Statistics);
   Commerce 315 (Finance and Currency)

Fourth Year
1. History 110
2. Political Science 310
3. Group A elective
4. Commerce 410 (Marketing); Commerce 415 (Business Finance)
5. Commerce 420 (Business Organization I); Commerce 425 (Business Organization II)

NOTES
1. With the approval of the departmental chairman, appropriate courses in the science-engineering and academic curricula may be substituted for any of the above or commerce courses.
2. Seven of the ten courses in the third and fourth years must be advanced (i.e., 300 or higher).
3. The student may not take more than six courses in commerce.
4. The Committee on Admission will prepare a list of students eligible to be enrolled in the Program in Commerce to the departmental chairman, who will make selections therefrom. The registration of every student must be approved by the departmental chairman each year.