Three Million Dollar Fondren Library Additions Announced

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The Fondren Library will be massively enlarged within the next two years at a cost of over $3 million, Dean of Humanities Philip A. Wadsworth said Wednesday.

Speaking on "The Role of Humanites in the University," at Hanszen last night, he observed that Rice library facilities "have not really been adequate" since Rice is a "rather young University."

The total cost of the new four-story and basement addition will be three million dollars, Wadsworth said.

The grant will be contingent on the acquisition of funds from other sources. Rice is presently seeking the additional money from the government, private foundations, and individual donors, the Humanities Dean added.

Predicts New Dept.

Wadsworth also mentioned plans to give sociology and political science full departmental status. Major appointments are already being made, he said.

"Further strengthening of the language departments" is also a goal. Spanish will receive a greater emphasis in the near future Wadsworth said.

The matter of a Fine Arts major is still "unsettled," but Dean Wadsworth expects it will be established "eventually." He added, however, "Rice has no plans to train professional performers such as dancers, actors, or sculptors."

'No Professionalism'

Dr. Wadsworth discounted any possibility that Rice would ever establish such specialized departments as linguistics or oriental languages and added that there would probably also be no law, medical, or ballet schools.

"We are training architects, accountants, and engineers. That's as far as Rice professionalism will go."

Asked about the outcome of negotiations with Joe Weingarten, a Houston businessman, to establish a "Peace Professorship" at Rice, he replied, "Old Joe Weingarten is a charming man—a crusader for peace. It's his hobby."

A professor may yet be endowed, he said, but as a professor of International Relations.

During the question period Dean Wadsworth was asked about University support of Dr. O'Neil's orchestra. Wadsworth pointed out that support was being given. An oboist from a local high school was hired to help with last Sunday's concert.

Summing up his ambitions as Dean of Humanities Wadsworth said, "Our goal is to build up the strong, but not to do everything."