Cybernetics Overtakes Registrar, IBM Organizes Courses, Grades

By CAROL STARR
Thresher Staff Reporter

The registrar’s office is now assigning a whole set of numbers to Rice students in order to use computers in filing class records. The new system of registration is modeled after the plan used at the University of Houston.

From preliminary information received in the spring, a tentative list of class enrollments is given to each instructor the first day of classes as a substitute for individual registration cards used in the old system. When students change courses, the registrar’s office programs the revised schedule into the computer memory storage unit.

Lists For Instructors

A final corrected list of student enrollment for each class will be given to each instructor when three or four weeks of classes are completed. Prior to grading period at the end of the semester an actual grading list will be sent out. Instructors will report each student’s grade on this sheet, and final grades will be recorded using the machines.

The single grading list should cut down on paper work at the end of the semester, explained Mr. James C. Morehead, Jr., the newly-appointed Morehead registrar. A complete list of students is easier for the instructor to handle than a bunch of loose cards.

Student and course records are to be kept on two sets of IBM cards in the registrar’s office. One set contains a card for each student, programmed with such information as his name, college, and course of study.

Cards On File

A set of cards for each course is also on file. These cards are programmed with the name of each student enrolled, the course description, and the hour of the course.

How much the system will speed up the efficiency of the registrar’s office neither Mr. Morehead nor Mr. Louis Michka, the university IBM programmer can predict. Both know that defects will become apparent in the next few months.