Seminar For Teachers Spotlights Aspects Of Educating Undergrads

By JEFF PAINE

The Informal Teaching Seminar of Rice University met for the first time September 24, representing a turning point in the introduction of new faculty to Rice, and, in a broader sense, a turning point in the University attitude.

THE SEMINAR was created by President Pitzer to orient new professors and graduate instructors. President Pitzer appointed Dr. L. H. Mackey of the Philosophy Department and Dr. R. L. Sass of the Chemistry Department as its organizers.

This was needed because every new teacher, upon arriving on campus, will tend to think of the students here as his old students, simply transferred to a hotter and wetter climate, and will teach according to the needs of those past students.

NEW PROFESSORS will be provided with information about rules and regulations, specific characteristics of campus life, statistical information about Rice students, “Thresher” evaluations, and probably told the kind of parties given by Sophomores.

A second goal is enhancing the quality of teaching. Dr. Sass said not only will the seminar be a place for informing new instructors about Rice, but a meeting-place for those who express concern over teaching. Orienting new teachers simply gives “an excuse to start such a program.”

EARLIER THIS year, Dr. Pit-