Two Referendums Bring Record Vote

By EUGENE KEILIN

Student and faculty endorsement before the holidays of a resolution calling for the desegregation of the University facilities and admission procedures has received widespread publicity.

At the same time students granted approval to the desegregation referendum, they failed to give the necessary three-fourths support to a proposal to abolish class officers. The move to do away with class organizations had the support of four of the five college presidents, and mustered 57 per cent support from the students.

BETTER THAN 75 per cent of the student body turned out for the December 18 referendums, setting the highest totals in Rice election history. On the class issue, 1196 undergraduates voted, while 1225 voted on desegregation. The previous record was 932, set in last year’s Thresher blanket tax election.

The student body gave almost two-to-one endorsement of the desegregation proposition. (A full breakdown of the results is given on page two.)

In a separate mail poll, faculty members signified their ap-

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VOTE--

(Continued from Page 1) approval by a margin of better than eight-to-one.

RESULTS OF the desegregation referendum were carried in the three local newspapers and received extensive coverage on local radio and television. Brief reports of the election results appeared in newspapers throughout the country and in at least one national magazine.

Rice followed the University of Texas as the second school in the SWC to endorse desegregation by an all-school vote. Other conference schools are expected to follow with similar action.

REED MARTIN, president of the Student Association, reported that he had received a number of letters in response to publicity about the poll.

Martin commented that a number of the out-of-town letters were highly critical and contained samples of what he termed “hate literature.” He added that most of the letters received from local residents were complimentary.