'TIS THE SEASON

McEnany Is Designer Of Intricate Schedule

By GARY HANOVICH

“I’ve got three finals scheduled for the same period. Who can I blame?” January is the season for such a lament but seldom at Rice.

Such cries are actually few in number on the Rice campus thanks to the intricate schedule for final examinations put together each semester by M. V. McEnany, Registrar of the University.

The compilation of the schedule is a continuing process carried on from year to year and based primarily on the setup of class periods. The class hours are scattered throughout the examination periods in a given order which is rotated each year.

THE COMPLICATED part is the filling of the remaining exam periods in order to alleviate conflicts and bring different sections of the same course together.

Mr. McEnany uses certain criteria in this re-arranging process. The first is, of course, to get as few conflicts as possible.

In the fall semester he also attempts to spread out examinations in first-year courses and give a break to the freshmen who are entering the battle-area of finals for the first time.

The pattern of these finals is changed from year to year so that the same instructor won’t always have an early final to administer.

IN THE SPRING the schedule is changed because the problem is getting degree candidates finished as early as possible.

This is accomplished by putting as many upper-level courses as is feasible near the beginning of the examination period. This process is limited, of course, by the amount of shifting that can be done to the basic pattern without causing conflicts.

The faculty is not forgotten in the planning process either. When an instructor winds up with more than one course bunched up near the end of the final period (and, thus, with a lot of papers to grade in a hurry), steps are taken the next year in the schedule to remedy the situation.

Mr. McEnany does enjoy planning the exam schedule, but as a challenging puzzle—not for the sadistic reasons that unhappy students are sometimes wont to believe.