Frosh Thanksgiving Grades ‘About Average’

By BARI WATKINS
Thresher Reporter

Freshman mid-semester grades were “little better than average” this year according to Dr. W. H. Masterson, Master of Hanszen College.

Although in certain areas the grades were significantly lower than last year, Dr. Masterson expressed what appeared to be the consensus among the college masters and the instructors of freshman classes.

According to a statistical study prepared by Professor Carl R. Wischmeyer, Master of Baker College, the freshmen in his college made on the average lower grades than they did last year. For example, the percentage of 1’s decreased from 15% to 12% and there were 9% 5’s as contrasted with 5% in 1964.

Same In Hanszen

In Hanszen College, as Dr. Masterson said, the grades were approximately the same as last year. He did say that although the number of 4’s and 5’s had not changed appreciably, they were distributed among a larger number of boys.

Dr. Trenton Wann, Master of Jones College, was more cheerful about the grades than were the other masters who expressed opinions. Although he admitted being previously inexperienced with Thanksgiving grades, he felt that “by and large, they were quite good.”

Dr. Wann said he had been led to believe that about twenty to twenty-five per cent of his freshman girls would make grades on a scholastic probation level, but was delighted to see only about six in difficulty that serious.

Grades High

He was similarly surprised to find almost an equal number with grades high enough to have qualified for the President’s Honor Roll.

The freshman grades at Wiess College were significantly worse than the ones last year according to Master Dr. Roy Talmage. He explained, however, that last year’s freshmen made exceptionally high grades which would have been difficult for any class to equal.

He thought that because the Wiess sophomores seem to make very good grades with little study, the freshmen were inclined to follow their example and hence allow their grades to fall.

Few Statistics

Among the freshmen instructors, no one seemed to take the grades very seriously, so few actual statistics are available.

Dr. Salsburg said the grades in Chemistry 120, a traditional nemesis, were really quite good. Twenty-five per cent of his students received 1’s, while only fifteen per cent had 5’s.

On the academic side, Dr. J. I. Davies’ Biology 100 class was about the same as it had been for the past ten years. He observed that there were the usual number of very good students and about five per cent “who ought not to be at Rice.”

Average Down

The average of the class may have been down slightly, he said, because biology majors no longer are enrolled in his class.

Mrs. Katherine Drew and Dr. Masterson, who teach History 100 and 110, also felt that this year’s classes were about the same as in previous year. Mrs. Drew said she found the class “thoroughly delightful, and the tutorial directors have indicated great pleasure in their sections.” Nevertheless, she did say there were fewer 1’s and 2’s than the class appeared capable of making.

Arch’s Enthusied

The freshman architects were “neither better nor worse than last year” according to their instructor, Miss Elinor Evans. She was enthusiastic about her

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(Continued from Page 1) students’ enthusiasm, and said they were all conscientious in their work.

Among the freshmen themselves, the general feeling seemed to be that the grades were not quite so low as they had expected. There was some dissatisfaction expressed that the grades were not taken as seriously by the professors as by the students.

Some individuals seemed to feel that since the mid-semester grades are the first received in college, they should be considered even more carefully than semester grades or not given at all.