Registrar States Policy On Draft; Urges Male Students To Take Test

By BILL SCHNITZ

“We feel that if a student is academically eligible to continue at Rice . . . this student should be allowed to pursue his education,” said Registrar James C. Morehead, commenting on the increasingly stringent requirements faced by students seeking draft deferments.

Mr. Morehead stated that the Registrar’s Office would be particularly sympathetic to students who wish to change majors, and as a result would need more than four years to complete their undergraduate education. He cited a number of such “special cases” in which he had written letters to local draft boards explaining why students should be deferred for longer than the usual four years.

Under the tighter draft laws, an individual may qualify for deferment by either ranking sufficiently high in his class or by making a satisfactory score on a college qualification test.

Exam Urged

Mr. Morehead said that “every male student at Rice ought to take the exam.” The deadline for registration is April 23. “The more complete the information provided the local draft board, the better the interests of the student will be served,” he added.

Mr. Morehead cautioned, however, that the student’s draft status is ultimately determined by his particular Selective Service Board. Local draft boards are “autonomous,” he said, and “no one can tell what they will do.”

Nothing To Lose

He noted that no Rice students were drafted during this academic year, although three students withdrew from the University to enter the military service.

Dr. George H. Richter, Dean of Graduate Studies, urged all graduate students to take the college qualification test since they have “nothing to lose and much to gain.”

Summer Work

He also observed that it is the “height of folly” for a graduate student not to continue his studies during the summer which is “the best period of the year to do research and to work on his thesis.”

“Draft boards will not stand for indefinite tenure,” he said. “It is much better to say that a student is working twelve months a year.”