Senate Protests Catalog Changes

By JOHN HAMILTON
Thresher Staff Reporter

The Student Senate requested at their Tuesday night meeting that the Administration either delete or clarify the new section in the University’s General Announcements entitled “Student Responsibility.”

The action followed the introduction of a motion by senator Ray Needham in which the catalog passage was called “vague,” “meaningless” and “damaging to the relationship between students and administration.”

Particular attention was called to the sentence in which the University’s right to dismiss students for “conduct . . . detrimental to the best interests of the University.” Needham’s motion commented, “A disciplinary system based upon such a concept would be formless and a highly regrettable departure from the principles of clarity and fairness.”

Seek Curbs

Attention was also called to the statement that the University has a “proper concern . . . (with) any behavior on or off campus.” The motion questions the proper extent of this concern.

The Senate’s debate centered as much on curbing “broad and vague” language of Administration policy statements as on the possible interpretations of the catalog statements. The Senate requested that in the future the Student Life section of the catalog be written by a committee of students.

In related action the Senate also objected to the form which incoming Freshmen are being required to sign this year. Feeling that a statement in the form could be construed as placing disciplinary matters under a “de facto honor system,” the Senate asked that the sentence be stricken from future forms. SA President Bill Broyles was instructed to inform all incoming freshmen by letter that the statement is not binding on them.

Unidentified Author

The statement reads, “As a student of Rice University, I accept without reservation my individual responsibility for adhering to all rules of the University and of my College, and I accept also my further individual responsibility for enforce-

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ment of same.” The form was distributed by the Master’s office, but, according to Needham, none of the Masters could identify the author of the statement.

The Senate received a reply to the letter which was sent to President K. S. Pitzer on April 1, requesting a full hearing of ex-Thresher Editor Hugh Rice Kelly’s appeal. Dr. Pitzer informed the Senate that he would have appointed a committee had there been any “controversy concerning the pertinent facts.” However, he did “not believe further comment is needed considering this case.”

‘No Comment’

The Senate had no comment.

Charles Demitz reported on the Senate’s endeavor to have the present $10 penalty for course changes made after the first day of classes altered to allow changes to be made during the first week of classes. This change will have to be approved by the entire faculty. Demitz will investigate this possibility.

Peddie Frazier was appointed a committee-of-one to find out if current students who require more than four years to graduate will have to pay tuition for their fifth year. The battered copy of Robert’s Rules of Order was passed to Ray Needham who will be the Senate’s parliamentarian. Stuart Glass was approved as Acting Thresher Business Manager to replace Mike Carter.

Negotiate Debt

Don Jones presented the Financial Statement of the Student Association for 1964-65. Treasurer Ken Burgess was instructed to negotiate with the Student Center Board for repayment of the debt the Board has owed since the Johnny Cash concert.

Jeff Norris introduced a re-