Rights Group Seeks Student Aid; Will Complete Report Next Week

By EUGENE KEILIN

The semi-official Student Association Committee on Student Rights is nearing completion of a draft report on student participation in disciplinary procedures.

The proposed report will contain two sections, “A Statement of Student Position” and “A Recommendation for Action.” The committee is being chaired by Reed Martin, President of the Student Association, who stressed that membership is open to any interested Rice student.

THE PRESENT open committee is an outgrowth of the Committee to Extend Student Representation in Disciplinary Decisions, begun last May with Larry Moore as chairman. The first committee terminated its activities last fall when Dean Higginbotham requested that action be deferred until he had had an opportunity to become more familiar with existing procedures.

The committee continued to function unofficially, gathering information and suggestions from interested students and faculty members. When President Pitzer reopened the question at a meeting of student leaders and administration representatives three weeks ago, the committee was reactivated in its present form.

According to Martin, there has never been a comprehensive explanation of student position in this area, and such a statement is necessary before concrete proposals can be submitted to the administration. Martin described the intention of the proposed report as “comprehensive but not impertinent, strong but not inflammatory.”

WHEN THE report is completed, it will contain not only a statement of student opinion but also a set of concrete proposals. The administration has asked that such concrete suggestions be made.

Martin continued that the need for a comprehensive report was urgent because student leaders currently lack any long-range plans, not to mention a specific mandate from the students. “The present practice of point by point negotiations has placed the students and their government in the defensive position of preserving what structures they have at the expense of long-range expansion.”

THE COMMITTEE is moving toward the submission of a proposal embodying three primary objectives: a public and defined set of regulations so that students will know exactly what the law is; student participation in formulating and administering the

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(Continued from Page 1) rules which govern the student as individual; and a set of reasonable and established trial procedures. Martin quipped, “Open rules, openly arrived at.”

The report is to reflect a consensus of student opinion so that a majority of students will agree with it and support it. It is for this reason that the committee encourages all interested students to attend their meetings. The last meeting will be Monday at 8 p.m. in the RMC Grand Ballroom.

Summarizing the attitude of the committee, Martin said, “The Administration is not our opponent in this struggle to implement the student position; they are merely the body with which negotiations are carried out. We should become less preoccupied with the possibility of administrative refusal and become more concerned with drafting a recommendation worth their consideration.”