Colleges Study Responsibility As Open House Hours Abolished

By GRIFFIN SMITH

Disciplinary action was taken early this week against six residents of the men's colleges for "flagrant violations" of the Open House regulations.

In a notice January 25, Dr. S. W. Higginbotham, Dean of Students, also ruled that the colleges could no longer establish Open House hours. Dr. Higginbotham said that the blanket restriction would continue "indefinitely."

Residents of the men's dormitories have been allowed to have women visitors at stated hours, usually on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, since the College system was established in 1957.

In this week's action, at least two students were suspended by joint decision of the college governments and the administration. Of the remaining four, two were placed on disciplinary probation and two others were given college punishment and disciplinary probation.

Open House privileges will be restored, Dr. Higginbotham said, when the colleges are willing to accept their responsibility, "which means when the colleges' residents are willing to stop abusing their privileges."

Dr. Higginbotham expressed alarm that the action had been interpreted by many students as a loss of confidence in the college system.

"The attitude of the president and the administration is to strengthen the colleges and to increase their area of responsibility. The new regulation was intended to meet a problem which (Continued on Page 6)
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	had gotten out of hand, and which we considered damaging to the real purposes of the colleges. It was not intended as an expression of ‘no confidence’ in the colleges.”

Administration measures, he said, were taken only after consultation with the College masters involved. In most cases, the recommendations of the college judiciary were followed.

Jim Bob Doty, President of Wiess College, told The Thresher that he felt the administration had no choice. “If the cabinets can’t secure the confidence and respect of the college—if social pressure in the college, and desire for a certain standard isn’t high enough—in other words, if the college system doesn’t work, the administration will have to take action.

Doty’s view was seconded by Tom Giesen, President of Will Rice, and Jim Rice, President of Hanszen. Said Giesen, “I think it’s unfortunate that the colleges collectively didn’t exercise more control. Authority seems to follow responsibility in these things.”

A meeting of the college presidents, masters and Rice President Kenneth S. Pitzer will be held at noon today to discuss the general problems of the colleges. An all-college meeting has been held in one college, and a committee has been established to study disciplinary responsibility.