Institute To Become University

Change Due This Month; Reasons Include ‘Technological Confusion’

By JIM DEEGAN

The Rice Institute will officially become The Rice University late this month, The Thresher learned this week from a reliable Lovett Hall source.

Approval of the change in name is expected at the monthly meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute on January 27 and would culminate many years of discussion concerning the proposal.

In a meeting with Student Association President Wayne Hanson and Thresher Editor Buddy Herz Wednesday morning, President William V. Houston, in commenting on the Board of Governors meeting last month, stated, “The Board as a whole felt favorably inclined [to change the name] but this is a matter to a large extent of public relations. Thus the Committee on Alumni and Student Relationships was asked to inquire into opinion concerning the matter.”

Sallyport Scoops

The January issue of the Sallyport, a Rice alumni publication first brought to the public eye the fact that a change in name was under consideration by the Board. Among the many reasons suggested for the change are the following:

1. Growing confusion resulting from the continued use of the incorrect term “Institute,” which actually describes a special-purpose institution of non-collegiate rank.

Right Designation

2. Need to assume proper and correct designation of “University” since adoption of the college plan and increasing emphasis upon the strong undergraduate, graduate, and research programs which mark the true university.

3. Strong evidence that the institution was conceived of and launched from the very beginning as a university.

4. Failure to attract some potential faculty members who do not understand the true university status of the institution and consider it to be narrower in scope.

Loss of Donor Support

5. Loss of support from some potential private donors, corporations, and foundations who will contribute to a university but not a special-purpose institution.

6. Difficulty of attracting proper attention to the many fine offerings and scholarly activities which Rice has in the humanities.

7. Need to consider establishment of certain institutions subsidiary to the overall institution. The term “institute” when properly employed to describe components of The William Marsh Rice University within technical or special purpose fields would probably bring considerable interest and financial support.

8. Making it possible for the institution to increase its role and national and international standing as a true university, instead of being incorrectly assumed to be particularly outside this immediate area, an institution of much narrower scope.

9. Assisting in obtaining more

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In Favor of Change

Board Lists Nine Points

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graduate students of high competence, especially those in the area of humanities who may be confused by the term "Institute."

Lovett's Son Agrees

Mr. H. Malcolm Lovett, son of Dr. Edgar Odell Lovett, Rice's first president, commented, "The proposed name does honor to the founder and rolls into one all-inclusive word, "University," the phrase "Institute for the Advancement of Literature, Science, and Art." The real reason for changing the name is to call Rice what it is—a University."