Faculty requests reconsideration of appointment

By TERRY O'BURKE

179 voting members of the faculty of Rice University gathered Friday in the Chemistry lecture hall for a hastily-called meeting to consider the Rice board of trustees' decision to appoint William H. Masterson as President of the University.

Chairing the meeting in the absence of the university's chief executive officer, Dean Gordon was Dr. Carey Croneis, Chancellor of the University. Croneis said that he had "no authority as chairman, and no wishes beyond those of the faculty.

Two members of the Board of Trustees, Herbert Allen and James Teague, were present to explain the Board's action in appointing the president. He cited his particular commitment as a former student and described it as a "continuous love affair with Rice."

He said that, on Feb. 14, 6 Trustees and 8 Governors had "in unanimous and wholehearted consensus, approved of the appointment. He added that the meeting adjourned, saying "the feeling of the faculty is abnormally quiet."

From inside the hall a great cheer was heard from the more than 300 students who had gathered across the street, awaiting the conclusion of the meeting.

Students meet, debate

By DENNIS BAHLER

About 450 students met yesterday afternoon in the Physics Amphitheater to consider possible modes of action concerning the appointment of William H. Masterson as president of Rice.

A president Warren Shaaren read a statement drafted two hours earlier which affirmed student and faculty concern about the circumstances surrounding the selection.

Bart Kaplan, a student representative to the joint student-faculty advisory committee, said that the committee had sent letters all fall, seeking to establish the real relationship of the student-faculty group to the Board of Governors. They failed to establish any kind of understanding, he said.

She said that Masterson had been to Houston recently and was offered the presidency on Feb. 14, without faculty-student consideration.

She said that Treatise Herbert Allen said at the time of the announcement "that we need a firm hand on the tiller in these troubled times."

Mrs. Kaplan said that two members of the advisory committee liked Masterson as a man, but all had expressed varying degrees of disappointment with the way he was chosen. She noted also that 12 full professors have hinted at resigning their positions if the Board does not rescind its decision.

She told the students that according to Dr. Zev Balogh, professor of Chemistry, the faculty approved then to be divided into two camps. One faction wanted no precipitate action unless it is likely to result in Masterson's resignation; the other believed the situation to be a matter of principle and thus is willing to act anyway. Apparently no concrete plans for such action had as yet been formulated.

Advisory committee member Greg White said that Dr. Frank Breiten's committee had collected 60 names with dissensions. Those were read, discussed and voted, and five preliminary choices were sent to the Board. The advisory committee thought this "stimulate some action," though the preliminary nominations were by no means final.

Meanwhile, the advisory committee thought the Board committee of nine had not yet been able to meet. Allen was ill before Christmas and Trustee Malcolm Lovett was recently hospitalized with a slipped disc. When they finally met a week and a half ago in Lovett's hospital room, Masterson's name came up, according to Mrs. Kaplan.

A question was raised concerning whether the new or old disruption policies which were debated this week would apply in any "action" resulting from the Masterson controversy.

Dean of Students Paul Peifton said that "disruptive tactics are not dissent." There is a responsibility to express dissent where there is dissent," he said, "but don't get yourself disoriented for having done the right thing in the wrong way."

In the word "disinterested," Peifton said he was warning students not to have their viewpoints discounted because of irresponsible protest methods, and was not referring to outright disruption.

Jim Rudy, president of Hannon College, said "We here have offered a version of the University different from the Board—that of a community."

The Board, he felt, does not see the University as a community, where people join together in making decisions.

"I don't see how Masterson can accept this position in the way in which it was offered, in view of his concern and commitment to the community that is Rice," Rudy said.
Masterson voices ‘regret’

BY DENNIS BAHLER

Dr. William H. Masterson told the Thresher that his decision to call the Rice Board of Trustees meeting and that the Board had made no attempt to contact him. He said, "It’s a hard decision to make, but the Board did not involve the committee very closely.” Masterson said in a telephone conversation late Friday, “And I am very sorry.”

However, he said he could not avoid certain circumstances under which we must adapt to the Rice presidency, “I have no intention of accepting this position,” he said. "It is not a matter of principle at all."

He said this call, which was made previously, became more forceful because he was not informed of the executive session of the selection committee at Rice that time. "I have no close or regular correspondence with anyone at Rice since I've left,” he said, and could not describe himself as “closely in touch with the University since he took over the presidency of the University of Chattanooga.

Masterson said, "I'm sorry it was that large a proportion" of faculty who expressed disapproval of the Board's manner of selection, who voted a resolution of no confidence in him.

He said he was first approached about the executive session of the Rice presidents in late 1962, "about two weeks ago" or so, when he flew to Houston and met with chairman Mervyn Rudee and Lovett in Lovett's hospital room. He said the Board offered him the job about a week later, but he was accepted by Rice within the next few days. He said that he was advised by the Board's executive secretary, "in any way" about the job. He said he was to travel to Houston "probably until Sunday morning" and that "I was not certain of his itinerary for this afternoon."

Masterson at Rice 22 years

BY JACK MURRAY

Dr. William H. Masterson, president-designate of Rice University, will become the first Rice graduate to return as the university’s president.

Masterson, a Houston native, served Rice previously in the capacities of professor of history, presidential advisor, chairman of the college masters, and dean of humanities. He was the first man to serve as Rice president from 1935 to 1962.

Masterson left three years ago to assume the presidency of the University of Chattanooga.

Masterson graduated from Rice in 1935 with PBK distinction. Shortly after his graduation, he attended the history department at Baylor School, a preparatory school near Houston, where he received his M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1946 and earned his Ph.D. from the same institution four years later.

Search for purpose

In 1948 Masterson returned to Rice as an assistant professor of history. He remained for 18 years, attaining full professor's rank in 1958. Soon after he was named dean of humanities in 1959, Masterson observed that his promotion to the deanship made him a member of the upper echelons of the university. "Our purpose after formulating general goals, I think, is to make sure that we have enough that each student can have a purpose."

"We are here to agree on a purpose: we are here to make it possible for the student to have a purpose he is working for."

Masterson was deeply concerned about Rice's emphasis upon science and engineering and was instrumental in developing a broader liberal arts education at Rice. He introduced a new baccalaureate degree in 1961.

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College meetings ask commitment to sustained protest

The seven college meetings called last night were part of a growing feeling in the selection and announcement of Dr. William Henry Masterson as interim president that the student-faculty committee had failed in general, in the same format.

A followup that the violated principle of cooperation between the Trustees and the student-faculty committee, not the personality of Dr. Masterson, was the issue. Many in the colleges' group believe that this issue must be preserved.

The second, recently expressed position was that a continuing commitment on the part of both students and faculty was needed to the idea of a peaceful protest. There was almost unanimous agreement on this point.

"They told us we were to have a part and then tossed their hands on us; as a member of the student advisory committee, I consider it a personal insult," Charles Szalkowski, a representative of the Baker College immediately after speaking.

Baker read a copy of the SA statement asking for the students to currently circulating as a petition and Charles Bassicki read the faculty resolution approving it. Dr. Heymann, Dr. T. S. Cantrell, Dr. C. W. Philpots, Prof. L. E. Coe, and Baker, associates, were present at the meeting and agreed with Bassicki's statement on the fact.

Public view

Bob Parks, Baker's representative to the student advisory committee, apologized for having told the college members that the board would have met and taken into consideration when events of the day proved his statement false. He urged his members to see their views known, both at the SA meeting and in writing, especially the selection committee.

Garrie commented on the amount of "homework" that the committee had obviously done, sitting through 80 contentious and eliminating 55 of them to come up with a list of five to recommend to the Board of Governors, earlier in the afternoon.

Berdan read a copy of the SA statement urging for a meeting for the students to draft a college letter to the Chairman:

About 30 members met in the Jones room closed the meeting.
**In Commencement address**

Masterson shuns sentiment

(Whitewash are excerpts from Dr. Masterson's Commencement Address, "The Troubled Rice Community"—page 4)

"What is the nature of the search which surrounds your lives? . . . The issue is whether the men and women of the human majority are now unacceptable or economically unfeasible to millions of other kinds of Americans; drastically complicating our search for answers. . . .

... Swept by emotion, the sentimental mind cannot define or perceive its principles and yet it is always free from the clouds of mindless anarchy. By blurring social injustice and economic dislocation, it is able to make effective application of knowledge. Its presidents have consistently affirmed its mission to the student-faculty committee before his appointment to the board for consideration. Further-