

Rice University Student Association
Houston, Texas
528-4141, Ext. 320

FOR RELEASE 12:00 NOON C.S.T., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1969

The faculty and student body of Rice, united together, are currently protesting The Board of Governors' recent appointment of a new university president. The protest is not directed at the man but against the method by which he was selected.

The board gained the confidence of the University when it requested that the students and faculty elect a committee which would advise the Board on filling the Presidential vacancy. It was stated at the time that the committee had the full confidence of the Board and would play an integral part in selecting the new president. Students and members of the faculty were led to believe that they would make a major contribution to the effort.

The committee conscientiously began work by preparing dossiers on about sixty candidates who had been suggested by students and faculty and narrowed this number to five tentative selections, which it presented to the Board. The Committee attempted to meet with the Board two times, in December and January, but both times the meetings were postponed by the Board. During the last two weeks, unknown to the Committee, the Board hastily decided on its current appointment, a man who had been previously rejected by the student-faculty committee. At no time did the Board contact the Committee, which was diligently trying to serve the interests of the University.

We, the members of the Rice Student Association, feel that the Board has seriously violated the trust and confidence extended to them by both students and faculty at Rice. Our University has achieved its current status by maintaining a high set of values under which we operate. These values govern the actions of students, faculty and administration officials alike. To be precise, the University seeks to instill in every member an attitude of honor and mutual trust. As declared by our first President, Edgar Odell Lovett, the only passports to the University are to be intellect and character. True, this is an idealistic goal, but the purpose of the University is to transform lofty ideals into everyday fact.

We believe the action of the Board trespassed upon our set of values; they have violated our ideals. By turning its back on us, by refusing to comply with the previous agreement, the Board has, in effect, directly insulted the integrity and competence of every faculty member and student at Rice. This is the basis of our protest.

We fully support the recent faculty resolution calling for reconsideration of the appointment by the Board.

Furthermore, we request that the new appointee at this time refuse the offer until his qualifications can be compared to those of other potential candidates via the established process of the student-faculty committee and the Board. We feel he should not accept a position where the situation prevents him from acting effectively as President, a situation which now exists on the Rice campus.

The following is the resolution passed by the student body by a vote of 951 to 7:

The students of Rice University vigorously protest and cannot accept the procedures used to select the new president. Specifically, the students object that the student-faculty committee, which was requested by the Board and duly elected, was not consulted about the final appointment. We emphatically request that this appointment be reconsidered after appropriate consultation with the student-faculty presidential selection committee.