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MASTERSON RESIGNS; FEARS 'DISSENSION'

By DENNIS BAHLER

DR. WILLIAM MASTERSON HAS RESIGNED AS PRESIDENT OF RICE UNIVERSITY.

IN A LETTER DATED YESTERDAY ADDRESSED TO H. MALCOLM LOVETT, SR., CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, MASTERSON SAID, "I DO NOT BELIEVE IT TO BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR ME TO UNDERTAKE THE DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENCY IN THE MIDST OF CONTROVERSY RELATED TO THE METHOD OF MY SELECTION. TO DO SO WOULD CREATE UNNECESSARY DISSENSION AMONG THE UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY OF GOVERNORS, FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND STAFF."

LOVETT ANNOUNCED ABOUT 4:30 PM YESTERDAY THAT THE BOARD HAD ACCEPTED MASTERSON'S RESIGNATION "WITH REGRET" AT ITS MEETING THAT AFTERNOON.

According to Andrew Polk, President of the University of Tennessee system, Masterson will return to become Chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

A telegram was sent Masterson at 6 pm by Chief Executive Officer William E. Gordon and SA president Warren Skaaren, expressing "deep gratitude for your statesmanship in the action you have taken with regard to the University's dilemma." The telegram concluded, "We regret the personal strain and suffering that this experience has caused you and your family and send you our heartfelt wishes for your success and well-being."

The telegram, which Skaaren read to the crowd before the basketball game last night in the gym, resulted from a unanimous motion passed at a 5 pm meeting of Gordon, Skaaren, Departmental Chairmen, College Masters, College Presidents, SA officers, and student members of the Presidential Selection Committee.

"Faculty-student relationships are in a fluid state these days in universities all over the country," said Dr. Thomas Leland, Chairman of the Chemical Engineering Department, at the 5 pm meeting yesterday. "It impresses me that Rice is capable of being a model of a new type of operation between students and faculty. This may be the most important contribution Rice has ever made as a University."

"All members of the Rice community--Governors, faculty, students, alumni, and staff--have learned a great deal about each other in the last few days," Gordon commented. He added that he was confident that the students would show the same moderation and dignity in acceptance of the resignation as has been shown during the events of the past few days.

"We expect the students to set us a dignified example," he said.

"We've been in this together, and that's where we belong," said Dr. James

Street Fulton, Master of Will Rice College, speaking of the faculty-student rapport he had observed during the Masterson controversy.

"I'm sure the Board learned from this experience as well," Gordon observed. He said that through dealing with members of the Board during the crisis, he and Skaaren became "convinced that they have Rice at heart; they are dedicated

(see below)

(This is the letter sent from Dr. Masterson to H. Malcolm Lovett yesterday, announcing Masterson's resignation as president.--Ed.)

Dear Mr. Lovett:

As you know, the Trustees of Rice University, in the exercise of their exclusive right and responsibility, did me the honor of electing me president of the University. My election to the presidency is an honor I will always cherish, and I am deeply grateful to you and your distinguished colleagues for the confidence you have placed in me.

Nonetheless, I do not believe it to be in the best interests of the University for me to undertake the duties of the presidency in the midst of controversy related to the method of my selection. To do so would create unnecessary dissension among the University's community of governors, faculty, students, and staff.

Entirely upon my initiative and responsibility, therefore, I submit my resignation effective this date.

My most cordial best wishes to you.

Sincerely,
William H. Masterson

cated to the University. The problem is that what they view the University to be and what we view it to be contain substantially different elements. It is this to which we must now address ourselves."

THE DAILY RICE THRESHER WILL NOT APPEAR THURSDAY. A REGULAR THRESHER, INCLUDING A COMPREHENSIVE WRAP-UP OF THE MASTERSON CONTROVERSY, WILL APPEAR FRIDAY EVENING.