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First FSU, FAMU Swap

First 'Exchange' Students May Suffer

By WILLIAM COTTERELL

Florida A&M and Florida State Universities will begin sharing some classes for the first time this week, but A&M students may find themselves trying to catch up most of the first quarter.

Dr. Martin Roeder, dean of arts and sciences at FSU, said students at his predominantly white university will have more than a week's head start on the Negro A&M students, who have not yet finished registration. FSU has completed all but late registration, and A&M began registering only last Thursday.

"A student at A&M would be 'penalized' by entering our classes a week and a half late," Roeder said. "I wouldn't advise him to."

He said FSU students signing up for classes at A&M will be probably not more than a day behind.

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"IT'S ENOUGH of a handicap for a student to start late on his own campus," said Dr. Mahlon C. Rhaney, dean of administration at A&M. "So we might discourage it this quarter, except for the best students."

Rhaney said the difference occurred because "when calendars were planned two years ago, no one had this exchange in mind."

He said no early estimate of how many A&M students would attend FSU classes could be made, but predicted the figure might be small — and not just because of the difference in registration dates.

"It's so new to them, they don't know the opportunity available," he said. "We expect it to pick up next year."

Roeder said he had approved four applications of FSU undergraduates seeking classes at A&M, and expects



Marshall

Perry

several more this week as schedule changes and late registration are completed.

"We feel at the moment that the biggest transfer will be among pre-veterinary students going to A&M for animal husbandry," Roeder said. "Prior to this year, any veterinary student had to go to Gainesville (the University of Florida) for his fourth year."

Rhaney guessed that most exchange students from A&M would go to FSU for natural science and mathematics courses.

The State Board of Regents approved "guidelines" July 11 for the exchange of academic courses, faculty and joint use of library facilities between the two universities, located less than two miles apart.

Under the program, full time students can take up to half of their course load at the "host" university with the permission of their academic advisers and deans at the "home" school.

The courses taken at the host university should not be the same as those offered at the student's home university, and

exchange courses are graded simply as "passing" or "failing," with no intermediate marks. The home university collects all fees and records grades forwarded from the host school.

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THE PROGRAM encourages faculty exchange and teachers will be given reduced class loads at their home institutions for classes taught at the host school. Initially, the host university will not be required to reimburse the home

institution for the services of visiting faculty.

Dr. Benjamin L. Perry, president of A&M, emphasized that "the guidelines recognize the importance of institutional autonomy in the areas of administration, admissions, faculty and staff employment and in the granting of degrees." Autonomy has been a touchy subject, especially at A&M.

Dr. Stanley Marshall, president of FSU, said the program "fulfills a long-sought goal of many of us at Florida

State who want to see maximum utilization of all our educational resources."

The exchange is a two-year trial project and will be reviewed by the Board of Regents in 1971 to decide if it is to continue.

Ultimately, whether or not

the program works will be up to the students of both universities.

"All we've done is build a bridge from A&M to FSU," said Rhaney. "It's at the grassroots level — neither the presidents or the deans can force cooperation."