

History Of Student Center

The Rice Campus Store, then known as the Rice Institute Cooperative Store, was opened in Lovett Hall in the Autumn of 1919, seven years after the opening of the first classes of the Institute in 1912. Originally, the store was expected to operate as a true cooperative paying annual dividends to holders of sales receipts.

Difficulties and unfairnesses shortly became evident, however, and it was decided that it would be best to accumulate the profits for the provision of facilities for general student use.

In 1938 the Rice Institute Cooperative Store became a formally organized trust by the execution of an INDENTURE OF TRUST naming Edgar Odell Lovett, John T. McCants, and Samuel G. McCann, as Trustees. Since that date the store has been governed by a Board of Control consisting of three faculty members and two students, one a junior and the other a senior.

Responsibility for the store's assets, operations, and the disposition of its profits, however, still resides in the three Trustees, currently, Dr. Pitzer, Mr. Simons, and Dr. Sims. The student members of the Board are Randol Read and Michael Yellin.

In 1947, with the opening of Fondren Library, the store expended approximately \$125,000 for new snack bar and store fixtures, furniture for the student lounge, then in the basement of Fondren Library, and for new equipment for the offices of several student organizations. Prior to that date the store had operated for twenty-eight years in Lovett Hall. The new snack bar, known as The Roost, was operated in conjunction with the book store.

In 1957 or 1958 the store contributed a total of approximately \$200,000 toward the construction of the Student Memorial Center Building, including the furnishings for the building, and fixtures for the store.

At that time the food serving facilities were enlarged and the name Sammy's was substituted for the former snack bar name, The Roost. Also the Trustees, by amendment #1 to the 1938 indenture, changed the name of the trust to The Rice Campus Store.

Beginning with the 1959-1960 academic year all store profits other than minor amounts needed to extend store services into new areas, have been contributed to the University to support the Student Center operations and activities. It is expected that the profit for the 1964-65 academic year, \$32,372, will be given to the University for Student Center operations and activities.

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