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Dean's resignation surprises faculty

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By Lisa Hays
Daily Student-Staff Writer

The resignation of IU School of Law Dean Sheldon Plager was unexpected, two law school administrators said Sunday. Plager announced his resignation Friday.

Associate law dean Maurice Holland said there had been talk of Plager taking a one-year leave of absence, but the resignation came as a shock.

"We were taken by surprise

that it wasn't a temporary leave," Holland said.

Plager said he will recommend that Holland serve as acting dean.

Leonard Fromm, law school assistant dean for student affairs, said there had been "no mention at all" of Plager's plans to resign.

But IU-Bloomington Vice President Kenneth Gros Louis said he and Plager had met earlier in the year to discuss Plager's possible resignation. Because

Plager took a long time to decide, he probably did not mention the possibility of resigning to his faculty, Gros Louis said Sunday.

"I feel good about where the school is and thought this is a good time for me to go on to do other things," Plager said Sunday.

Plager became dean in 1977, after teaching at the University of Illinois.

"I spent seven years as dean and accomplished much of what I

set out to do," he said.

During Plager's tenure as dean, IU began efforts to secure funding of a School of Law addition and renovation of the present building. The final funding for the project was recently passed by the Indiana General Assembly.

Although the resignation did come as a shock to some, administrators said seven years is a

See DEAN,
back page, this section

Dean catches administrators by surprise with resignation; Plager will return to teach

DEAN, from Page 1

long time to serve as dean.

"It is not unusual for deans to reconsider their position after five or six years," Gros Louis said.

Plager plans to take a leave of absence and return to IU to teach and research. He plans to write a book or a series of articles on research he and two other in-

vestigators are doing on class action litigation.

The process for finding a new dean may take a while, Gros Louis said. First, a search and screen committee must be established, then national advertising must be started.

"It could well be until July of 1985 before a new dean is found," Gros Louis said.