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Law schools may cooperate

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By Craig Webb
ids Staff Writer

A name change for I.U.'s two law schools, combined with newspaper articles on Tuesday and Thursday of this week have resparked an old fear that the Bloomington law school might be closed.

But University administrators, including the deans of the two schools and I.U. President John W. Ryan, rejected the idea and opt instead for closer cooperation.

Inclusive in that closer cooperation could be the establishment of one dean who would administer both campus law schools. The two schools now have separate deans.

To facilitate tighter operations between the two schools, Ryan will name a committee of individuals from outside I.U. to discuss possible new means of cooperation. Members named are expected to be Indiana judges and lawyers.

Another change has been the renaming of the two schools. Last Friday, the I.U. Board of Trustees passed

a resolution naming the schools "I.U. School of Law-Bloomington" and "I.U. School of Law-Indianapolis." The resolution also calls for identical diplomas.

According to an article in Thursday's Louisville Courier-Journal, there is some disgruntlement in Indianapolis about the new name. The school formerly was called "Indianapolis Law School." However, Indianapolis law school Dean William F. Harvey applauded the change and said faculty reaction also is positive.

Talk has circulated since 1962 that the Bloomington law school might be closed and merged with Indianapolis, said Douglass G. Boshkoff, dean of the Bloomington law school.

Part of the new shutdown talk stems from an article that appeared in Monday's Indianapolis Star. The newspaper discussed the cooperation committee, then quoted Chief Justice Richard M. Givan of the Indiana Supreme Court as saying, "If we do not combine the two schools, the division between them will grow — much to the detriment of the Bloomington school." Givan attended both campuses' schools.

In an interview Thursday, Givan said his statement should not be taken as an appeal to close the Bloomington law school, but as a request that the two schools should really act as one.

Because the Indianapolis law school is larger — 850 students to Bloomington's 551 — its location, alumni and alumni financial support would keep it more famous and more powerful than Bloomington, Givan said. But by combining the two schools under one name, each will generate support and prestige to the benefit of both, he said.

The merger also will provide more opportunities for each school to take advantage of the other's attractions, he added. Indianapolis' proximity to the state courts and legislature means many opportunities for legal jobs, Givan said.

Boshkoff said that one of Bloomington's advantages is its connection with the rest of the Bloomington campus allowing it to offer many joint-degree programs.

I.U. Board of Trustee members, lawyers and judges discussed the future of the two schools, including the possibility of having only one dean, six weeks ago.

From that meeting, Givan said he concluded the trustees favor the one-dean setup. But when contacted Thursday night, trustees Carolyn P. Gutman and Robert E. Gates said no decisions will be made until after the committee Ryan will name has reported.

A trustee committee to establish an Indiana Legal Research Center will be sponsoring a feasibility study this fall to see whether a center could be built, said Harvey, executive director of the committee.

Givan, also a committee member, said the center would be a law library with electronic equipment for information retrieval.

In an Aug. 15, 1974, letter, Harvey said the center "would probably absorb all of the law library here in Indianapolis, and perhaps a substantial part of the law library in Bloomington, too." Boshkoff wrote back and said he was concerned about the idea of usurping the Bloomington library.

Harvey said Thursday that there is "nothing implicit" in the plan for the center that would require taking part of the Bloomington law schools' books.