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By Craig Webb
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Deans pleased by report on law schools

Both deans of I.U.'s law schools say they like the findings of the blue-ribbon committee that studied how the schools could work together better.

The committee report, made public Nov. 24 by I.U. President John W. Ryan, suggests the deans inform their students better about lectures, programs and courses available on both campuses. The committee also recommended that the schools stay separate but get equal funding.

"It seems like a sensible report to me," said Douglass G. Boshkoff, Bloomington law school dean. "I think there's probably a few more things we can do that we haven't."

For example, after preregistration,

Bloomington would send to Indianapolis a list of courses that still are open, so that interested students could enroll, Boshkoff said.

Although a spokeswoman in his office said he was "very pleased" with the report, Indianapolis Law School Dean William F. Harvey was unavailable for comment. He did say on Oct. 1, however, that he believed "there needs to be more cooperation than there already is."

Because of the advantages in having two different types of law schools, the committee believes "Each program should be encouraged to pursue its own method and approach to legal education and to capitalize on those institutions which add dimension to their existence. Neither school should be viewed as the chosen instrument of legal education in Indiana."

The Indianapolis school is located in the state capital, thus making its students available to parttime legal jobs in the courts and legislature. Meanwhile, Bloomington can use its connection with the rest of the Bloomington campus to offer more opportunities for joint degree programs.

Newspapers had reported in September that the Bloomington law school might be closed. Ryan and the vice presidents of both campuses rejected the idea, although the president included whether to merge the schools in his list of discussion questions.

"The essential, important factor is getting the legislature to give enough money to support the law schools in the manner that they ought to be supported," said committee member Thomas Scanlon, an Indianapolis attorney.