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'Better integration,' not merger, supported by Indy law dean

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By Susan Forste and Craig Webb
ids Staff Writers

William F. Harvey, dean of the I.U.-Indianapolis law school, wants it made clear that he has no desire to close I.U.-Bloomington's law school. What he says he does favor, however, are administrative setups and academic programs that generally differ from those advocated by Bloomington law school dean Douglass G. Boshkoff.

"I know of no one in this (the Indianapolis) law school who has even been discussing merger — that's the supreme irony of all this," Harvey said Wednesday in an interview in Indianapolis.

He was responding to recent newspaper articles that suggested a merger of I.U.'s two law schools was in the offing. One such article, which appeared in Monday's Daily Student, said many persons believe Harvey "is vying for more power over legal education in Indiana."

Instead of a merger, Harvey said he

believes the two schools should keep separate administrations and report to the vice president at I.U.-Purdue University-Indianapolis (IUPUI). Such a setup was part of the administrative reorganization of June 1974, but was changed three months later because Boshkoff objected. Now each school reports to its own campus vice president.

Harvey said he favors reporting to one vice president because it was proposed in the reorganization and because, "It would bring about a better integration of programs at the I.U. School of Law (meaning both schools). It could bring into effect programs that now run on an ad hoc, piecemeal basis."

Would Harvey favor having one dean administer both schools? The dean replied that he "hadn't thought about it."

One group that probably will think about it is a committee to be appointed by I.U. President John W. Ryan. The committee will study how I.U.'s law schools can work together more closely.

Judges and lawyers are expected to compose the committee.

In a question-and-answer session last Tuesday, Boshkoff said the schools already work together closely. Bloomington students take courses at Indianapolis and vice versa, faculty teach at both schools and the libraries have been lending books for each other for years, he said.

But Harvey said "there needs to be more cooperation than there already is," although he said he does not know what form it should take.

Harvey said more cooperation is needed for "better integration of the I.U. School of Law programs." Boshkoff said he believes such integration would eliminate the different approaches the two schools take to legal education.

Boshkoff said the Indianapolis school offers more opportunities for parttime legal jobs because it is located near the state courts and legislature, while Bloomington has more opportunities for joint degree programs

because of its connection with the Bloomington campus.

But Harvey says he believes there is "no significant difference in the academic environments of the two schools."

He questioned whether students in either program "should be limited to the advantages of their own areas" — a question that is one of the points in his argument for more cooperation.

"The present role of campus identity is going to have to respond to the future," he said. "Who knows what legal education will be in 1990? We want to pull together with the Bloomington law school on these questions."

One response to the future is the study being made of the possibility of establishing an Indiana Legal Research Center in Indianapolis. Harvey is a member of a committee studying the possibility.

The center would be one of the largest law libraries in the country. It

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would have the added advantage of a system to make its materials available throughout the state, Harvey said. Just what that system would be is not certain.

A telecopy system such as the one in use at the Indianapolis law school library is a possibility. Harvey said the library's machine can send printed information in the form of electronic signals anywhere in the country where there is a machine that can retranslate the signals to a printed page.

Harvey said the center would "improve delivery of legal information," which is presently "a hopscotch piecemeal affair."

In October 1974, Harvey sent a letter to Boshkoff and the deans of the law schools at Notre Dame and Valparaiso Universities that gave a short

appraisal of the center. The center would "probably absorb all the library here (Indianapolis) and perhaps a substantial part of the Bloomington library too," he said in the letter.

Boshkoff wrote back that "absorption of even part of our library by another entity is wholly inconsistent with the present teaching and research mission of this school and would impair the quality of legal education available in Indiana."

Harvey said, "I'm surprised that as many times (since the letter) as Doug and I have talked, he has never approached me (about the center) — never. That letter was designed to give notice... I was attempting to rough out, as I could best perceive it, a concept for a legal resource center."

Harvey said the sentence about

absorbing part of the Bloomington library was a mistake because no such decisions have yet been made.

"If I could rewrite the letter I'd say, 'This center would greatly enhance the availability of law material to your (the Bloomington) campus,'" he said.

One Daily Student article said a member of the Board of Visitors, an advisory group for the Bloomington law school, accused Harvey of playing "the game of politics by appearing at all the Indiana Bar Association parties and winning favors with the Indiana Supreme Court."

Harvey laughed and termed the charge "unqualified nonsense." Any rapport he has with the Indiana Bar Association is "a matter of great pride" to him, he said.

He added, "Bloomington must be pregnant with misinformation."