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Law Committee's Procrastination Must End

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Law committee's procrastination must end

AT this point, I.U. Law School-Bloomington alumni appear to be more concerned with the future of legal education in Indiana than do I.U. administrators and committee members chosen to discuss the issue.

Dean of I.U. Law School-Bloomington Douglass Boshkoff has received approximately 150 letters from alumni in reaction to several articles which appeared in the Daily Student Sept. 29 describing the political struggle between the I.U. Law School-Bloomington and the I.U. Law School-Indianapolis. According to Boshkoff, this is the largest response he has ever received from a controversial issue which "obviously shows the great amount of interest and concern for the future of Bloomington's law school," he said.

Copies of the articles were mailed to more than 3,500 students and graduates in order to determine the sentiment surrounding the recent talk of possibly merging the state's two law schools into one institution. The letters indicated that many people are afraid a merging will downgrade the Bloomington law school and decrease the high standard of legal education in Indiana.

The majority of responses stated a hope that Blue Ribbon committee members work with expediency to present a recommendation by the original Nov. 1 deadline. The Blue

Ribbon committee consists of nine members appointed by I.U. President John Ryan to examine the future of legal training in Indiana.

However, the Blue Ribbon committee members are "very busy people," according to Assistant to the President Paul Klinge, and the first convenient time the members may meet as a group is Nov. 6. It is unlikely that a proposal will be devised at the first meeting, and the committee statement may be more than a month overdue.

In the meantime, none of the five committee members contacted have reviewed the catalogues and documents mailed to them two weeks ago explaining the histories, philosophies and requirements of each of the two autonomous law schools. Four of the nine committee members were unavailable for comment, but the others said they still have no idea of whether or not they favor a merger between the two schools.

The prevailing attitude among the group is to keep their minds "open" for suggestions until the first meeting. However, a distinction between "open" and "uninformed" should be made.

It is understandable that since each of the members were appointed according to their knowledge of and involvement with the legal world, they have other important commitments. But these obligations must not undermine their responsibilities to the I.U.

law schools.

The Blue Ribbon committee's procrastination is also effecting the ability of the Search and Screen committee to suggest a candidate to replace Boshkoff who is leaving his position as dean of the I.U. Law School-Bloomington in January. The committee cannot select a replacement without first knowing if any changes are going to be made in the present legal education system.

Originally, the Search and Screen committee had hoped to have a recommendation by Dec. 1 in order to avoid needing an acting dean. Klinge said he sees no need "to worry about this possibility just yet" which is the same attitude expressed by members of the Blue Ribbon committee.

The future of the I.U. law schools is too important and complex of an issue to treat casually. The decisions of whether or not to merge the state's two law schools and of whom to recommend for dean of I.U. Law School-Bloomington depend on the seriousness with which the committee members treat their responsibilities.

Their procrastination must end.

I D S 10/30/75

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