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Law school needs more faculty, space

By JOHN FANCHER

There's a serious shortage of teachers and space at the Indiana University Law School on the Bloomington campus. Sheldon Plager, new dean, told the IU Board of Trustees Thursday afternoon.

The school is supposed to have 30 teaching faculty members, but Plager said: "I can count only 13 full-time permanent faculty in residence this year."

He said by counting himself, plus Vice President Robert M. O'Neill, whose specialty is law, and law professor emeritus Ralph Fuchs, the number of teaching faculty can be shown to be 16.

Plager said he will accommodate the curriculum with 10 visiting faculty members from other schools, but he doesn't think that should be pursued as a permanent way to run the law school.

There are two major reasons for the shortage, he said. One is the school has faculty on leave, and the other reason is it has lost faculty to other schools.

But, Plager said, bringing back those on leave would provide a full-time permanent faculty of only 20 in a school that needs 30 to teach its nearly 600 students.

"We need to recruit at least 10 new faculty," he told the trustees, adding: "It's a tremendous opportunity to attract top faculty who can strengthen our abilities."

To do this, however, will take more money for salaries than IU has been paying, he said, commenting further: "We can't compete with our present salaries."

Plager said the school falls behind Iowa, Minnesota, Northwestern and Michigan in the salaries it pays, and he feels the school must look for "sources of funds outside the state's coffers."

One of the reasons the school has a problem with faculty on leave is IU promised that kind of flexibility instead of higher salaries to attract professors to campus, Plager said.

However, he quipped, "Florida paid in sunshine, but