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By Wilford Kale

WILLIAMSBURG - The accreditation hearing by the American Bar Association for the William & Mary School of Law will be held May 13 in Chicago, it was announced Thursday.

Acting law school Dean Emeritus Fischer said the college received word of the hearing by letter from the ABA on Thursday morning.

The hearing will be before the ABA's Legal Council of Education Committee and will discuss W&M's status in its quest to remedy space and library inadequacies claimed last year by ABA consultants, Fischer said.

Fischer added that he and the dean designate, former Sen. WilHam B. Spong, Jr., will represent the college in the hearing.

"We're going to be asked about what the inspection team has found," Fischer said.

On the library, the college will be told "good shape," Fischer said, adding that the college will be told that the college has presented the section of the library building regarding a new law school building. He said the college has been told the ABA's educational consultant would be at the hearing. "They're not going to divide anything we've done," Fischer said, adding that the consultant does not "suggest" decisions would be made.

Fischer said that the committee was told about all aspects of the library, but that the college would not accept the alterations proposed to solve the space problem at the college.

Fischer said that if the ABA committee finds W&M is not in compliance with ABA guidelines, it will make its recommendation to the college.

Fischer said that the college would be given a chance to respond to the recommendation before the college is informed of the committee's decision.

"If the ABA committee finds W&M is not in compliance with ABA guidelines, we will respond," Fischer said. "We're going to be asked about what the inspection team has found."
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Continued from the ABA that our accreditation be lifted. But there could be an alternative, he added. This could give us a deadline to rectify the situation.

''But I think we would be in the dark until the legislature met again,'' Fischer said. "If there is an alternative, they could give us a deadline to rectify the situation. But I think we would have to wait until the legislature met again." The legislature is expected to meet in June.

Fischer and Spong will report to Dr. Thomas A. Graves Jr., W&M president, and Gov. Mills E. Godwin Jr., if necessary. Fischer said he would handle questions regarding the law school library, while Spong, who was in Richmond when the last day appropriation bill was passed by the General Assembly, would answer questions about the law school building. The General Assembly, in authorizing the funds, gave Godwin the power to divert state money to the law school project if it is necessary to preserve the accreditation of the school.

Earlier this month, Godwin said he believed the ABA would accept the action of the General Assembly.