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No Hint Is Given On School

By Wilford Kale

Times-Dispatch Staff
WILLIAMSBURG — The acting dean of the College of William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law, Emeric Fischer, said Friday that he had no hint of what action the American Bar Association will take regarding the accreditation of the law school.

Fischer and the dean-designate, former Sen. William B. Spang, Jr., met for four hours Thursday with an ABA commission in Chicago. The commission was established to determine whether William and Mary's law school is in compliance with ABA standards.

Fischer said that Dean Orin Shagle of Ohio State University Law School and James White, an ABA special consultant who visited the William and Mary campus several times last year on fact-finding trips, conducted the hearing.

The problems regarding the law library "are no longer accreditation problems," Fischer said. "We are in compliance with the minimum ABA standards in that area. I reported on those developments and they are satisfied with what we have done."

"Our problem is in the physical structure of the law school. And the question they still have to decide is whether we are in compliance," Spang told the commission about progress on plans for the new building.

The commission, Fischer said, "was neither friendly nor unfriendly. Their attitude was straightforward and deliberate. There was no show of emotion to indicate any direction of their thoughts and no particular hint of the outcome."