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WILLIAMSBURG — Dr. Ernest Fischer, a law professor at the Naval Academy, was named acting dean of the School of Law at the College of William and Mary on Friday. William and Mary President Thomas A. Graves made the appointment.

Fischer replaces Dr. James P. Whyte, who submitted his resignation last May but agreed to remain until a successor could be found. Graves said Friday, though, that Whyte "prevailed" upon him to keep serving until the start of the next academic year, rather than toward or at the end of it, and he has finally, with great reluctance, acceded to his wishes." Graves said he accepted Whyte's resignation on Friday with the approval of the executive committee of the board of visitors.

Graves said Fischer's appointment was also approved by the executive committee at a meeting Wednesday.


Graves has asked the committee to prepare a list of three names for consideration by the board of visitors. A college spokesman said Friday that the earliest the board could consideruil the list of names would probably be the November meeting.

Fischer emphasized Friday that his appointment is merely "interim." He said that the need to have a law dean for the 1978-79 academic year is the prime reason for the appointment and that the board would announce a successor that fall or early next year.

Fischer is director of the Master's in Law program and a law clerk."