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W&M Law School Due Hearing May 13

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W&M Law School
Due Hearing May 13

By Wilford Kale
WILLIAMSBURG - The accreditation hearing by the American Bar Association for the College of William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law will be held May 13 in Chicago, it was announced Thursday.

Acting law school Dean Emerich Fischer said the college received word of the hearing by letter from the ABA 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 the college will be in good shape on the library, the college will be in good shape, he said. "We're going to be asked what the inspection team has found." On the library, the college will be in "good shape," he said.

At that time, in responding to suggestions made by ABA consultants, the college will be in "good shape," Fischer said. "We're going to be asked what the inspection team has found." On the library, the college will be in "good shape," he said.

Fischer added that he and the dean-designate, former Sen. Samuel B. Spong Jr., plan to meet with the inspection team when they arrive on May 13, before the hearing.

Fischer said he did not know how long the decision process would take. Earlier this year it took about six weeks for the same committee to provide the college with the same information.

"They're not going to decide anything while we're there," Fischer said, adding that other people in the committee would be there to observe.

The college will provide the committee with all the information it needs to make its decision, Fischer said.

If the ABA committee finds W&M not in compliance with ABA guidelines, the college will be asked to present a plan for compliance, Fischer said. If that plan is accepted, the ABA committee will review the college's progress, he added.

The ABA committee will also review the college's progress on the space problem, which was the subject of the last hearing.

Fischer said he did not know how many people from the ABA committee would be at the hearing. He added that the college would be represented by a team of lawyers and the dean-designate, former Sen. Samuel B. Spong Jr., will be present.

The hearing will be held at the ABA's headquarters in Chicago and will be open to the public.

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Law School Due
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Continued from First Page

of Delegates of the ABA that our accreditation be lifted. But there could be an alternative, he added. They could give us a deadline to rectify the situation. But we think we would have a valid appeal and we would seek a rehearing,

Fischer, who was in Richmond when the last-day appropriation of $252,000 by the General Assembly was included in the $25 million supplemental building fund package, would answer questions about the law school building.

The General Assembly, in authorizing the funds, also gave Governor the power to divert state money to the law school project if it is necessary to preserve the accreditation of the school.

In a news release last week, Gov. Mills E.
Godwin Jr. said he believed the ABA would accept the action of the General Assembly.