

DEAN BUNN REPORTS  
To The Annual Law School  
Alumni Luncheon

This is the first time that I have reported to the alumni. I would like to start where Dean Kimball left off in his report to you last year.

He described the three greatest difficulties which he thought faced the school: (1) the small size of the faculty for the large number of students, (2) the low level of faculty salaries as compared with those at competitive law schools, and (3) the inadequacy of the library budget.

I can report substantial improvement in only one of these areas: the library budget. While the library has been spending less per student on books, and has a smaller total number of books, than any other Big Ten law school library, its book budget was increased substantially last year and a request for another substantial increase is before the Legislature this year.

In the other two problem areas, there have been only minor improvements.

First, the small size of the faculty for the large numbers of students.

With the growing demand for legal education, the student body increased 60 percent in five years with no increase in the total number of faculty until last year. At that time, an accreditation inspection team, formed by the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools, concluded that the School did not appear to be in compliance with

an accreditation standard calling for a faculty of suitable size for the number of students. The Law School's own Board of Visitors concluded last year that the "biggest need of the law school at this time is for additional funds to enable the law school to improve its student-faculty ratio." In the same year, Spencer Kimball resigned, and a number of prospects for the deanship visited the campus. Each of them protested that the faculty was too small for the number of students.

There were obviously two ways to solve this problem: one was to reduce the student body, and the other was to increase the faculty.

Reducing the student body substantially did not seem feasible in the face of the very high demand for admission into the Law School—unless another law school could accept at least the Wisconsin students we did not take. The faculty recommended creation of a second state-supported law school. But, as you know, that recommendation was turned down—at least for the time being—on the ground that it had not been shown that there were enough jobs for law graduates to justify another school.

Your school is now bursting at the seams. Last fall we had 950 students—in a building which was crowded at 750—and with a faculty which was insufficient for 600. Our classrooms are so crowded we have had to turn away students from some of our most important courses—Constitutional Law, Corporations, Evidence, Real Estate Transactions, and the General Practice Course. Our largest classes range from 150 to 190 students. We have so many students compared with the study space in the library that we do not even meet accreditation standards.

Next fall we aim to admit about 290 students, as we did this past fall. We hope to hit this target with the same accuracy as this past fall,

rather than missing as we did two years ago and three years ago, when we overshot the mark by 35-45 students. If our aim is good, the total enrollment should go down slightly to around 900 or a little above.

We have, of course, also been attempting to increase the number of faculty. But, we have been losing faculty members to other schools and to retirements almost as fast as we could hire new people.

*Continued next page*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dean Bunn Reports . . . . P. 3

The Gargoyle Corrects  
Its Mistakes . . . . . P. 14

Students Honored For  
Achievements . . . . . P. 6

Distinguished Faculty-  
Alumni Awards to  
Bunn and Boardman . . P. 16

Students Honor Good  
Teaching . . . . . P. 15

New Officers for  
WLAA . . . . . P. 15

Nate Feinsinger Closes  
Out One Career—Will  
Devote Full Time to  
Another One . . . . . P. 9

Institutional Librarians  
Workshop . . . . . P. 12

The Guard Changes—  
Nellie Davidson  
Leaves the Law  
School . . . . . P. 8

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