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# Bartlesville Wesleyan College

Office of the President

July 16, 1976

Mr. Peter E. Holmes  
Director of the Office for Civil Rights  
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Mr. Holmes:

Bartlesville Wesleyan College has reviewed its current policies and practices in regard to full compliance with the provisions of Title IX. Action has been taken to fully comply with the requirements of Title IX including steps to modify any practice or action required to bring the institution into full compliance in all parts of the act not covered by exemption.

Pursuant to the provision of section 86:12 of Title IX I request exemption of Bartlesville Wesleyan College from the provisions of sections 86:21 (c); 86:40 (a) and (b); and 86:57 to the extent that they may deal with pregnancy out of wedlock. The sections of the act are inconsistent with the special directions and the general rules of The Wesleyan Church the controlling agency of Bartlesville Wesleyan College.

The special directions of The Wesleyan Church for its members published in the 1972 Discipline of The Wesleyan Church require a standard of moral purity opposing sexual promiscuity and all factors and practices which promote it (see the Discipline p. 51 paragraph 187 (5). Further the general rules of the church require (1) the preservation of the sanctity of the home (see the Discipline p. 36 paragraph 131 (11) and (2) the high regard of marriage vows (see the Discipline p. 36 paragraph 131 (14)). The Discipline also requires appropriate corrective actions for violators (see Discipline p. 37 paragraph 132).



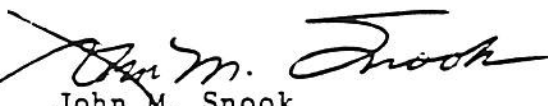
While it is the expectation of Bartlesville Wesleyan College to apply college rules and regulations equally to men and women there may be occasions in the instance of pregnancy out of wedlock where the evidence against the father may be insufficient to meet due process requirements whereas such would not be the case with the woman. To deal with neither party because we could not deal with both would be tantamount to sanction of a moral situation which violates a tenet of our church.

Further, I request exemption of Bartlesville Wesleyan College from the provisions of section 86:31 to the extent that appropriate differences may be required between the sexes in regulations concerning dress. The specific tenet of the church with which the requirements of Title IX may be insistent is found in the church's general rules on dress (see Discipline paragraph 131 (8)). The application of this tenet does require some differences in the dress code in specific circumstances; for example, the acceptable style of swim suits for men would be different than the acceptable style of swim suits for women.

It is our understanding that Title IX permits separation of housing by sex (86:32 (b)), separation of restroom facilities (86:33), and special requirements for employment such as a woman to be resident director in a women's dormitory (86:61). If our understanding of these sections should be in error or at anytime these sections should be interpreted as prohibiting administration based on sex Bartlesville Wesleyan College would desire the opportunity to request specific exemption in these areas, also.

The provision of Title IX for the request of specific exemptions based on religious tenets is appreciated, as is your favorable consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



John M. Snook  
President

JMS:kew