

Loma Linda University



The President
Loma Linda, California 92350
714/824-4540

October 22, 1985

RECEIVED
OCT 25 1985

Mr. Harry M. Singleton
Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
U. S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

PROGRAM REVIEW & MANAGEMENT
SUPPORT DIVISION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS/REGION IX/SF

Dear Mr. Singleton:

Since assuming the presidency of Loma Linda University just over one year ago, I have discovered that this institution may not have applied for or received the exemptions available to educational institutions controlled by religious organizations as provided by 34 C.F.R. Section 106.12(b) of the regulations for Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Loma Linda University hereby makes a formal request for exemption from certain provisions of the Title IX regulations because they conflict with the religious tenets of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, controlling organization under which Loma Linda University operates.

Specifically, Loma Linda University requests exemption from the following regulations based on the religious tenets cited below:

Regulations - 34 C.F.R.

Section 106.21 - Admissions; Section 106.40 - Marital or parental status (students) and Section 106.57 - Marital or parental status (employees).

Explanation

The eighth Fundamental Belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church states "that the law of the Ten Commandments points out sin" (S.D.A. Church Manual, page 33). The seventh commandment, Exodus 20:14, states, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." The church interprets this commandment to cover adultery, fornication, various perversions, and certain remarriages (Reasons for Which Members Shall Be Disciplined, S.D.A. Church Manual, page 247). The S.D.A. Church Manual comments: "The Church cannot

afford to deal lightly with such sins, nor permit personal considerations to affect its action. It must register its decisive and emphatic disapproval of the sins of fornication, adultery, all acts of moral indiscretion and other grievous sins" (page 249).

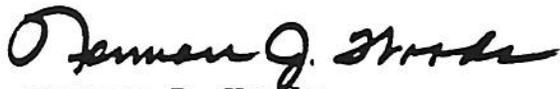
It is our understanding that an exemption for appearance codes (formerly 45 C.F.R. Section 86.31) is unnecessary as that provision was deleted from the regulation in 1982.

Loma Linda University, as an institution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is obligated to uphold the above religious standards in its relationships with its students and employees. Loma Linda University believes it complies with the requirements of Title IX because it applies its religious principles and standards equally to students and employees of both sexes.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church operates a number of universities and senior colleges in the United States, to provide for its youth the opportunity to take advanced studies within the context of the Church's world view and sense of mission. Loma Linda University is owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and is therefore an integral part of the Church. The University is listed in the Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook as a Seventh-day Adventist educational institution and thus comes under the Church's basic 501 (c) (3) tax exemption. In addition, the Board of Directors for the University are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as are its faculty and full-time staff.

Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Norman J. Woods
President

NJW:aj

✓xc: John E. Palomino,
Acting Director, Region IX