



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

SEP 23 1985

Rabbi Moshe Weitman
Dean
Long Island Seminary of Jewish
Studies for Women
444 Beach 6th Street
Far Rockaway, New York 11691

Dear Rabbi Weitman:

The Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education (OCR/ED) has reviewed your response to OCR's letter dated August 7, 1985, which requested additional information regarding the Long Island Seminary of Jewish Studies for Women's request for a religious exemption from Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Based on information provided by the Seminary, OCR has determined that your institution need not have applied for a religious exemption. The reasons for our determination are discussed below.

Subpart C (in effect, 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.21, 106.22 and 106.23) of the Title IX regulation (copy enclosed) prohibits discrimination in the admission and recruitment of students. Section 106.15 of the Title IX regulation specifically exempts private undergraduate institutions from compliance with Subpart C.

In your letter, dated August 21, 1985, you indicated that religious tenets "require us to admit only female students." Based on this practice, you requested a religious exemption for 34 C.F.R. § 106.21 (admission), § 106.22 (preference in admission) and § 106.23 (recruitment of students). OCR has determined, through contacts with the institution, that the Seminary offers only undergraduate level programs. Under § 106.15, the Seminary, a private institution offering undergraduate level programs only, is already exempt from the admission and recruitment provisions of the Title IX regulation.

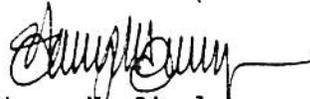
The statutory exemption from the admission and recruitment provisions of Subpart C does not relieve the institution of its obligation to comply with the regulation as it relates to graduate or other programs. Should there be conflicts in this regard, it would be necessary to request exemption from specific provisions of the regulation which are deemed to be inconsistent with certain tenets of your religion.

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If you determine that your institution does not need a religious exemption, please note your wish to withdraw the request so that OCR may close your request file. Otherwise, if we do not hear from you within 60 days, OCR will assume that your institution has no need for a religious exemption and will close your request file. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the New York Regional Office for Civil Rights. The address is:

Stanley Seidenfeld
Acting Regional Civil Rights Director
Office for Civil Rights, Region II
Department of Education
26 Federal Plaza, Room 33-130
New York, New York 10278

Sincerely,



Harry M. Singleton
Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights

Enclosure

cc: Stanley Seidenfeld, Acting Regional Civil Rights Director, Region II