

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Oklahoma City Oklahoma 73111 • (405) 478-1661

July 30, 1985

Mr. Taylor D. August
Director, Region VI
U. S. Department of Education
Regional Office
1200 Main Tower Building
Dallas, TX 75202



Dear Mr. August:

In response to your letter of June 3, 1985, we are re-submitting the request we first filed on September 30, 1976, for certain exemptions from the Title IX Regulations, based on the religious affiliation of Oklahoma Christian College. While we are in agreement with and conform to almost all of the aspects of Title IX stipulating equal treatment of the sexes, there are a few points on which the understanding of the Bible by our constituency require us to seek exception. We will appreciate your assistance on these matters.

Oklahoma Christian College is affiliated with the churches of Christ, an un-denominational group which seeks to re-establish the church of the first century in all essential respects. This means that the scriptures are, in effect, our statement of principles and we have no other. In following these principles, the churches of Christ have no hierarchy of any kind. There is no conference, no legislative body, no higher authority than each local congregation. Oklahoma Christian College, then, is a college established by this brotherhood primarily to serve the needs of young people of this brotherhood. Its control is vested in a Board of Trustees which is composed entirely of persons who must be members in good standing of this church brotherhood and who, therefore, understand the view held by the various congregations of which they are a part. This Board has the responsibility of seeing that the College follows the views of the brotherhood on matters pertaining to religious and scriptural matters.

As expressed in the scriptures, the views of our religious constituency are that men and women hold equal standing in the church, each independently acceptable before God. At the same time, however, the scriptures place somewhat differing responsibilities on the two, giving men certain roles of leadership in worship and responsibility (I Corinthians 14:33-37, I Timothy 2:8-15). It is in view of these scriptures that we make the attached requests for certain exceptions to the Title IX Regulations.

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We will appreciate your granting these requests.

Sincerely,



J. Terry Johnson

Enclosure

JTJ/mgc

NEW

7-30-85

REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTION TO THE TITLE IX REQUIREMENTS
FROM OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

1. Swimming Classes. According to paragraph 106.34 of Subpart D, "a recipient shall not provide any course or otherwise carry out any of its education program or activity separately on the basis of sex." Because of the prevailing view in the church, we request that we be able to provide separate classes for men and women in swimming. These classes shall be equal in every respect but shall be separate because of the problem of controlling the swimwear in harmony with what our Board of Trustees considers modest dress (I Timothy 2:9).

2. Participation of women in leading religious services. Paragraph 106.31 (b) (8) states that an institution should not "limit any person in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity. Because of the biblical injunction that women are not to take the leading role in conducting religious worship services, the College requests that it not be required to assign such roles to them (I Corinthians 14:33-37). The College does provide many opportunities to women for religious activities and leadership. It has a special group for women called "Gleaners" in which they meet to conduct religious services and provide many useful services in the community. Women, likewise, have many opportunities for leadership in clubs, student government, and other activities in which they have equal standing with the men. It is only the matter of conducting public worship that we seek the exception.