



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

SEP 14 1994

Mr. Paul R. Corts  
President  
Palm Beach Atlantic College  
901 South Flagler Drive  
P.O. Box 24708  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4708

Dear Mr. Corts:

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Education has received your letter dated August 18, 1994, in which you inquired whether the proposed changes in the incorporation of the Palm Beach Atlantic College (the College) would in any way affect the religious exemption that was granted the College by OCR in 1989.

OCR has reviewed the proposed charter and amendments. The charter indicates that the College continues to be a nonprofit religious corporation, controlled by a Board of Trustees selected by the Palm Lake Baptist Association, a group whose members are Baptist churches.

Since there is nothing in the charter or amendments that would indicate any change in the religious tenets of the College or its controlling organization, your religious exemption from the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), as mentioned in OCR's letter of January 6, 1989 (copy enclosed) is still in effect.

This letter should not be construed to grant exemption to any section of the Title IX regulation not specifically mentioned in OCR's 1989 letter. If OCR receives a complaint on these issues against the College, we are obligated to determine initially whether the allegations fall within the exemptions granted. Also, in the unlikely event that a complaint alleges that the practices followed by the College are not based on the religious tenets of the controlling organization, OCR is obligated to contact the controlling organization to verify those tenets. If the organization provides an interpretation of tenets that has a different practical impact than that described by the College, or if the organization denies that it controls the College, this exemption will be rescinded.

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I hope this letter responds fully to your request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Eleanor Baker at (202) 205-9495.

Sincerely,

*Norma V. Cantú*

Norma V. Cantú  
Assistant Secretary  
for Civil Rights

Enclosures