



205/251-2311
2901 Pawnee Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama 35256-2699

April 4, 1985

Mr. William H. Thomas, Regional Director
United States Department of Education
101 Marietta Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The following is in response to your letter of March 25, 1985, regarding our request of July 21, 1977, for exemption from certain provisions of Title IX.

1. Southeastern Bible College is a non-denominational institution serving various independent churches and protestant denominational groups.

Some of the religious groups represented in our Board, our faculty and our student body are:

- Independent Fundamental Churches of America
- Southern Baptists
- Presbyterian Churches of America
- Christian Missionary and Alliance
- Freewill Baptists
- Brethren
- Mennonite

The college is governed by a self-perpetuating board consisting of twenty members including the President of the college. Board members are chosen from constituent churches. Approximately ten different churches are represented on the board presently. The board is the policy-making body of the institution.

2. Southeastern Bible College would be considered theologically conservative and evangelical. Attached is a copy of the college's doctrinal statement.
3. We are seeking exemption under provisions in paragraph 86.12 for two issues.

A. Educational Programs

Study programs in our Pastoral Theology Department are limited



Mr. William Thomas, page two

to male students. We believe the Scriptures provide for men only to be in the office of the pastor of a church. The position has been maintained since the inception of the program. It is consistent with the views of the majority (perhaps all) of our constituent churches. A change in position by our college would cause the loss of support from many of these same churches. It is assumed that you are not asking for a detailed Biblical argument for the college's position at this point. Such a presentation can be made if necessary.

In light of these facts we ask exemption from paragraphs 103.31 and 106.34 as they would relate to our pastoral studies program.

B. Employment

Consistent with our theologically conservative position, we hold that the Scriptures require that women are not to be in the position of teaching men in matters of Biblical instruction and theology. Again this has been the historical position of the college from the beginning and it would reflect the practice of the churches we serve.

In light of this we request exemption from the provisions of paragraph 106.51 only in matters related to Biblical and Theological instruction of men by women.

If documentation of these views is needed from representative churches within our constituency we will be happy to secure it.

Yours truly,


James G. Kallam, Ph. D.
President

JGK/je