

TITLE IX

Athletics department to analyze gender equity in coming report

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"For an athlete, gender equity means no disparity in how they are seen by others," said Malekoff.

For an institution to have complete gender equity, players should be able to reverse roles in terms of medical, facilities and support, and not experience a disparity.

"Are we close enough to master gender equity? That's not for me to decide," said Malekoff.

In order for institutions such as Guilford to remain Title IX compliant, two of three criteria must be achieved. Schools must provide opportunities for men and women in numbers proportionate to its enrollment, schools must show a history of program expansion that is responsive to women and existing programs must be in line with the interests of the student body.

The most challenging issue, according to Malekoff, concerns finding quantitative and qualitative data on perceptions of gender inequity in Guilford's sports.

"It is not possible to know if everyone will perceive their teams as being equitable," said Malekoff. "Some things are not a matter of gender and are occasionally understood wrongly."

However, some student athletes have

cited inequity concerns they perceive have been overlooked by Guilford's Athletics Department.

A female basketball player, who wished to remain anonymous, told The Guilfordian that the more a team wins, the more gifts they receive, which hasn't been happening.

"We've been very successful this season and yet we haven't been provided the extras that the men's basketball team have," she said.

Some women's players also say they have to share locker room space where the men's teams have a dedicated space for each sport.

Walters told The Guilfordian that gifts and locker room space is not motivated by gender, but rather space and donations.

"When the sports facility was built, there were only seven teams and we are doing the best we can with limited space," said Walters. "We can't tell people where to donate their money, especially if the donations are earmarked — and in instances like waiting to play music for a particular team, we ask ourselves if the practice is commonplace or situational."

Football player Kyle Ennis, a junior criminal justice major, said that teams are treated fairly where practice times are concerned, though some teams are provided frills while other teams receive nothing.

"The men's basketball team gets an advantage when it comes to equipment," said Ennis. "They have towels with their names on them, personal shower shoes, and free shirts and shorts as well as book bags."

Lacrosse player E'leyna Garcia, a sophomore psychology major, told The Guilfordian that there was no differing treatment.

"Male teams are treated the same with practice time and facilities," said Garcia. "We alternate practice times and both practice in the same facility. As far as gear, I think it depends on the team."

Walters said that at times inequity is a matter of perception. However, he thinks having a self-study is good for the college.

"I don't know if there is gender inequity or Title IX violations happening at Guilford College," said Walters. "The study will iron that out."

Palombo told The Guilfordian that though his office receives few complaints about Title IX violations and gender inequity, his office will strive to correct issues that occur.

"We feel like we are doing the best we can," said Palombo. "If the study shows there are areas that need improvement, we will certainly take the appropriate actions to make ourselves better."



ZACH MORGAN/GUILFORDIAN



MORGAN ANDREWS/GUILFORDIAN

Guilford is working to ensure that all teams experience complete gender equity. However, some players claim they do not receive the same rewards as the opposite-gender team, no matter how good their record is. Guilford is currently conducting a self-study to look for any violations of Title IX.

Community Senate Update

Stuff we did

PASSED: Opposition to NC Amendment One; \$100 Student Activity Fee Increase

Following up on tonight's decisions.

Stuff we're doing

Stuff we're gonna do

Talk about chairs, take a breather, watch a movie about chairs, talk about furniture. Add accountability measures to the Student Activity Fee money. Popcorn!

100% natural, additive-free, send similarly made ideas to Senate at senate@guilford.edu! Senate meets in Boren Lounge every Wednesday @ 7 p.m.

Stuff you wanna see done

By Yahya Alazrak
COMMUNITY SENATE PRESIDENT/CLERK

Lions and tigers and protesters — oh, my!

By Sarah Welch
STAFF WRITER

"Elephants never forget." Signs like these were directed at circus participants this past week, when animal rights activists protested in response to nine Ringling Bros. shows at the Greensboro Coliseum.

"The questions being asked today are what are the 'rights' of animals and what constitutes cruelty," said Jim Hood, professor of English, who conducted research on animal rights for an FYE class he taught last semester.

Animal activists argue that the stress of performing circus tricks can lead to injury.

"During performances, elephants stand on their hind legs, something they don't do in the wild," said Matt Bruce, an assistant campaigner for PETA. "The elephants often develop arthritis, which is the number one reason they are put down."

Activists are also upset over the state in which the animals travel for the circus. Jeannie Deibel, an animal rights activist, said that there are records stating that Ringling Bros. travels 25,000 miles a year.

"The animals are confined the majority of the time," Deibel said. "They are social beings but they travel alone ... in chains. ... They don't get enough exercise either. In the wild an elephant might walk 30 miles a day."

Janice Aria, director of animal stewardship at Ringling Bros., spoke to The Guilfordian about the activists' concerns.

"For their safety, elephants are tethered during travel, just like you would wear a seat-belt while traveling," Aria said. "The animals can lay down and they can turn 180 degrees."

Aria also spoke about the nourishment the animals receive.

"The idea of denying food or water to an animal is unthinkable," Aria said. "We base our training on establishing trust with the animals. The elephants trust us for food, water, safety and care — why would we want to break that trust and possibly endanger ourselves?"

However, animal rights activist Wolfgang Palanz told The Guilfordian that part of the USDA fine against Feld Entertainment, Inc. (Ringling Bros.) was for deprivation of food and water. In November 2011, the USDA fined Feld

\$270,000 for violations of the Animal Welfare Act, the biggest paid fine in circus history.

According to the USDA, "Feld waived the opportunity for a hearing and agreed to develop and implement annual AWA compliance training for all employees who work with and handle animals, including trainers, handlers, attendants and veterinarians. ... All Feld employees who will work with and handle animals must complete the training within 30 days of when they are hired."

Aria said that the USDA settlement consisted of citations, not violations, from 2007-2011, which mainly dealt with paperwork, the state of their fences, etc.

"Ringling is inspected by the USDA more than any other traveling show," said Aria. "Yes, this is the biggest fine ever paid, but we are also the biggest traveling show, so it makes sense that there are more inspections and the fines are bigger."

On Feb. 11, circus attendee Angela Langdon enjoyed her first circus experience.

"I've spent most of my life around animals and several years working in a vet office and I noticed that the animals seemed a little bored for doing the same tricks over and over, but they were well-behaved and weren't treated badly while I was watching," Langdon said via email.

But Bruce still thinks the circus mistreats its animals. He said that the animals are viewed as a commodity, which means corners are going to be cut. Aria sees it differently, however.

"(People) have totally encroached on wild animals' territory," said Aria. "There is no longer a traditional wild, so we can't return the elephants to the wild. We all have to be stewards of the earth. ... Ringling's main concern is to conserve the Asian Elephant."

Animal Activist Steven Lanz still believes that the circus commits acts of animal cruelty, though he believes that Ringling is not purposefully being cruel to animals.

"People generally don't consider how unnatural the circus is for the animals, but if dogs were put in a setting that is that unnatural there would be an outcry for change," said Lanz.

As Hood pointed out, it seems that what is cruel is still up for debate — chances are it won't be decided before the next circus comes to town.