

Title IX

Athletic requirements strive for equality

By FRANNIE BURNS

During the next three weeks, the Summer Tar Heel will examine Title IX, the government regulation which requires equal opportunity for men and women in athletic programs. The first part of the series deals with the definition of Title IX and the University of North Carolina's interpretation of the policy.

Title IX, the regulation requiring equal opportunities for men and women in athletics, was issued in June 1972 by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and became effective on July 21, 1975.

The title, which includes opportunities in the operation of the athletic division and the athletic scholarship programs, stressed two major points.

The first point was that discrimination on the basis of sex in the operation of the interscholastic, intercollegiate, club or intramural athletic program offered by an educational institutional was prohibited.

The second point applied to the requirements which guaranteed equal opportunities in the provisions of equal scholarships to both male and female athletes.

Any athletic program supported by ticket sales, student fees, general revenue and alumni donations are included in Title IX; however, cheerleaders and physical education are exempt.

Although Title IX advocates equality between men and women in athletics, it is not saying the universities are required to duplicate the men's program for women.

The universities were given three years to comply with Title IX. During this time the colleges re-evaluated their athletic policies and practices.

In order to assist universities with understanding the complicated guidelines of Title IX, HEW has recently included a "Policy Interpretation of Title IX."

Issued in December of 1978 by HEW Secretary Joseph Califano, the interpretation incorporated revenue-producing sports like football and basketball into the Title IX policy.

HEW announced its new guidelines despite many protests from the NCAA to prevent the inclusion of major revenue sports such as football and basketball.

Last week, a nationwide group of 300 universities and colleges submitted an alternative plan to HEW for compliance with the guidelines. The group's proposal urged each school to develop its own plan as opposed to HEW's strict financial guidelines.

One person who is in disagreement with the policy interpretation is University of North Carolina Athletic Director Bill Cobey.

"Title IX (the policy interpretation) doesn't give you any hard and fast rules to follow," Cobey said. Although UNC believes

it has complied with the guidelines, Cobey said he has received correspondence from the NCAA saying UNC's athletic program should be re-evaluated.

Cobey said the University believes in equal opportunity and if Title IX were not in existence, UNC would still offer equal opportunities to men and women.

Excluding revenue-producing sports, Cobey said, "We spend more money in women's athletics than in men's." Cobey also said the distribution of athletic scholarships were within the NCAA's and the Association of Intercollegiate Athletic for Women's rules.

Although the rules vary in the number of scholarships allowed for men and women, Cobey said UNC gives the maximum number of scholarships allowed to each sex.

Cobey said for 267 women athletes, 95 scholarships are given totalling \$191,000. He also said that for 390 men, (excluding football players) 142 receive scholarships totalling \$719,000. In football, 95 of the 125 participants received scholarships of \$375,000, Cobey said.

"I object to the way HEW implements the policy," Cobey said. "HEW should give a compliance period, and if it isn't obeyed, then the college should be taken to court."

"The University is saying to HEW," Cobey said, "tell us what to do." He said the interpretation was a result of complaints from 62 colleges, and rather than following up on the complaints, HEW made more interpretations.

"The women see the money from the revenue-producing sports as a bonanza and the small schools consider basketball not educationally sound," Cobey said.



Bill Cobey

Cobey also said UNC has an obligation to provide for both male and female athletes but the NCAA and the AIAW unnecessarily believe revenue producing sports should be included.

"I don't feel like we're capable of doing that," he said. "It's a typical government regulation and interpretation—they want to prod you in a particular direction," Cobey said.

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