Frequently asked questions about the planned transition to coeducation at Deep Springs

9/20/11

When will Deep Springs begin admitting women?

We don't yet know for sure, but the soonest date possible is the summer of 2013 (applications due in November 2012). Transition planning is underway; we will announce when we intend to first solicit applications from women no later than June 2012. The class applying this fall and entering the college in the summer of 2012 will be an all-male class.

Will Deep Springs increase the size of its enrollment?

We have yet to begin detailed transition planning, but we have no plans to shift total enrollment up or down. Enrollment size is an issue that we consider routinely and separately.

Why is this change being made now?

The motivations for the change are well-described in the letter to the college community from Dave Hitz, Chair of the Trustees of Deep Springs.

No particular event precipitated the board's decision to review its all-male policy this year. Admissions policy was identified two years ago as one of several long-term strategic areas slated for routine board review over the subsequent years.

Neither do any financial or legal pressures motivate a change in admissions policy. Since all Deep Springs students receive full fellowships, enrollment is unrelated to income.

How do the students currently at the college feel about this transition?

"Naturally, the student body is still processing the ramifications of this change. While we are all eager to aid the college in the transition to coeducation, we acknowledge that certain aspects of the Deep Springs experience will be lost along with the single-sex policy. In preparation for the board vote, we

extensively discussed the question of coeducation in our student body meetings, and we recently voted to recommend that the board pursue a transition to coeducation. Regardless of where individual students' opinions lie, we all agree that the trustees were rigorous and transparent in their decision-making process, and that their civility led them to an honest, well-deliberated decision."

s/Matt Stoltz, (second-year student), President of the Deep Springs Student Body
s/Eamon Heberlein, (second-year student), Chair of the Deep Springs Communications Committee

How does the faculty of the college feel about this transition?

In a letter to the Trustees dated September 13, 2011, the current faculty of Deep Springs wrote (in part):

"W*e see no compelling reason for denying the admission of highly qualified and committed women applicants. We unanimously support a resolution in favor of taking steps toward making Deep Springs College a co-educational institution."*