

Transsexual student expelled

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A male-to-female transsexual nursing student has charged that she was “kicked out” of her two-year program at Tennessee State University (TSU) because someone complained about her transgender status.

According to *Query*, a Tennessee lesbian and gay newspaper, Tracy Quirling received a memo from nursing school dean Marion Anema, saying that she could not continue in her program at TSU. “[Nashville’s Park View Hospital] where you were scheduled for clinical experiences this fall will not permit you to continue your clinical rotation because of a gender issue,” reads the memo from Anema. “It was the perception of some individuals at the institution that your appearance and voice would not be received positively by patients.”

“I expected prejudice and discriminatory remarks when I started the program,” said Quirling. “I got some from general students on campus, but [until now] I got none from within the nursing program.”

Quirling met with Anema after receiving the memo. Anema reportedly told her TSU could do nothing about Park View’s decision, which emerged from complaints by at least one doctor. She said that the nursing program had made attempts to place Quirling at other hospitals offering clinical rotation, with no success.

Quirling is in the pre-operative phase of her gender reassignment. She had planned to have her final surgery next summer, in order to work around her school and clinical rotation schedule. The dismissal from the TSU nursing program has left her unsure whether she will be able to afford it.

“I’ve saved up enough money to pay for the surgery, but it’s really expensive,” Quirling told *Query*. “If I try to pursue a legal case against TSU because of this, it’ll take all that money to pay for lawyers.”

—Jacob Smith Yang