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**U of I Central Administration to Post All FOIA Requests on Website**  
*Public Can View Freedom of Information Correspondence*

URBANA—The University of Illinois Office for University Relations has launched a website on which it will post all requests the office receives under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as well as related communications. The pilot program went online July 1 at [www.uillinois.edu/foia/](http://www.uillinois.edu/foia/).

FOIA requests and related documents are themselves subject to freedom of information laws and must be publicly disclosed upon request. This FOIA transparency website is an experiment to provide the public with real-time access to the freedom of information process. In addition to the originating FOIA request, related correspondence between the Office for University Relations and the requestor will be posted. Responsive documents to FOIA requests will be publicly available for a modest fee, and members of the public may register for email alerts when new FOIA requests are received by the Office for University Relations.

The Office for University Relations (OUR) administers FOIA requests for the President and central administration of the three-campus U of I system as well as the Board of Trustees and requests that encompass two or more of the campuses. A FOIA informational page has been on the office's website since 2006, providing information about the law and guidance on how to submit a FOIA request with the office. OUR staff members who handle the requests attended a 2008 workshop on FOIA sponsored by the public access division of the Illinois Attorney General's office.

Given the general interest in disclosure of public documents and pending changes in the Illinois freedom of information law, the OUR pilot program is an opportunity to provide additional transparency to the process and to gauge public interest. The office will monitor activity on the site and make a determination about continuing the program, or possibly expanding it, later this year. The site includes FOIA activity for the office beginning April 1, 2009, the start of the fourth quarter for fiscal 2009. The OUR processed nearly 75 formal FOIA requests in fiscal 2009, including nearly 40 since April 15, and responded to countless additional routine informational requests. The U of I system handles more than 400 FOIA requests a year for the three campuses and central administration.

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The University of Illinois is a world leader in research and discovery, the largest educational institution in the state with almost 70,000 students, 24,000 faculty and staff, and campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. The U of I awards more than 18,500 undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees annually.