

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

January 10, 2014

Steve Staeger
Investigative Reporter
WCIA-TV
sstaege@wcia.com

Re: FOIA #13-549

Dear Mr. Staeger:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated November 14, 2013, received in my office on November 15, 2013, in which you requested:

“Receipts and any other documentation of travel expenses for university trustees paid by the university..”

On December 17, 2013, you clarified your request to seek the records from:

“July 1, 2012 to present... travel expenses reimbursed to the trustees, as well as any travel costs initially paid for by the university.

You also agreed to accept expense report top sheets.

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. This is a public document numbering 286 pages.

Portions of these documents have been redacted pursuant to the following section(s) of the Act:

- 140/7(1)(b) that exempts from disclosure “Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order.” This includes university identification numbers and home addresses.
- 140/7(1)(c) that exempts from disclosure “Personal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which, if disclosed, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, unless the disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information.” This includes university identification numbers and home addresses.

Please note, information not responsive to your request (i.e. information not regarding transportation expenses for trustees, including room setup charges and office parking) was redacted in gray. As your request seeks information for trustees’ travel expenses, we believe that providing values for non-travel expenses of the Board of Trustees office are not responsive

Office for University Relations

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and therefore have been redacted. We believe that your intention is to calculate total dollar amounts for travel based on the documents provided, we believe that providing values for non-travel expenses would complicate your evaluation and these data have therefore been redacted.

According to our calculations, the trustee travel expenses for the time period requested totaled \$67,125.76. Please be aware that adding all values included in the responsive documents will not yield an accurate accounting of travel costs for any given trustee or for the trustees as a whole. Specifically, to arrive at our calculation, some values were prorated among travelers in instances when a trustee traveled with another staff member. Please contact our office for more details regarding expenses for specific trustees, and with any other questions you may have on this matter.

Should you wish to inspect or receive a physical copy of these documents, please call Melanie Kuehn at 217-333-6400 and she will provide you with all necessary details.

You have a right, under the law, to seek a review of this response by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) in the Office of the Attorney General. The PAC may be reached by phone at 217-782-1396, by email to publicaccess@atg.state.il.us, or by postal mail at the Public Access Bureau, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706. You also have the right to seek judicial review under section 11 of this Act.

If you have questions for our office, please contact 217-333-6400.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Hardy
Executive Director
and Chief Records Officer