

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

March 24, 2014

Jared Hopkins
435 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
jahopkins@tribune.com

Re: FOIA 14-130

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

I am responding to your request dated March 10, under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act in which you request:

“All correspondence, included but not limited to emails and letters, between the University Of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Division Of Athletics and the NCAA, as well as the DIA and the Big Ten, from the period of October 12, 2013, through March 1, 2014, regarding rules violations; potential rules violations and NCAA investigations. Specifically, I am requesting correspondence sent and received by the following individuals: Mike Thomas, Ryan Squire and Jason Lener. This request applies to NCAA, Big Ten and school rules violations, potential violations and investigations.”

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 173 pages.

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

- 140/7(1)(a) that exempts from disclosure “Information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations implementing adopted under federal or State law.” Specifically, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. §1232g) protects the privacy of student education records and prohibits the release of any information from a student’s education record without the consent of the eligible student or parent of the student. Thus, identifiable student information was redacted from the responsive documents.
- 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 student identification numbers.
- 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 information about students, prospective students and family member names.
- 140/7(1)(f) that exempts from disclosure “Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda, and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated, except that a specific record of relevant portion of a record shall not be exempt when the record is publicly cited and identified

Office for University Relations

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by the head of the public body.” This includes communications containing opinions, recommendations and/or the formulation of an action or policy.

Should you wish to inspect or receive a physical copy of these documents, please call Melanie Kuehn at the phone number below 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