

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

March 6, 2014

Roger Harfst



Re: FOIA 14-100

Dear Mr. Harfst:

I am responding to your request dated February 20, under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act in which you request:

- “1. Any and all files, communications, and documents from Nigel W. Austin, Interim County Extension Director for Mason County concerning Roger Harfst.
2. Any and all files, communications, and documents from Rhonda Ferree, Horticulture Educator for Mason County concerning Roger Harfst.
3. Any and all files, communications, and documents from Ryan D. Hobson, Regional Director concerning Roger Harfst.
4. Any and all files, communications, and documents from any other University of Illinois Extension employee in Mason, Fulton, Peoria, Tazewell counties concerning Roger Harfst.
5. Any and all files, communications, and documents from Monica David, University of Illinois State Master Gardener Coordinator.”

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 258 pages.

Portions of these documents have been redacted or withheld 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 a home address, telephone numbers, personal email addresses and other unique identifiers.
- 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 personal information related to volunteers and employees.

Office for University Relations

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- 140/7(1)(d)(iv) exempts records that would “unavoidably disclose the identity of a confidential source, confidential information furnished only by the confidential source, or persons who file complaints with or provide information to administrative, investigative, law enforcement, or penal agencies.” This includes information provided by a person in confidence to University employees.
- Section 140/7(1)(f) exempts “preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated, except that a specific record or relevant portion of a record shall not be exempt when the record is publicly cited and identified by the head of the public body.” The responsive documents contain drafts and preliminary discussions and expressions of opinion regarding possible policies and actions of the University.

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