

# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

April 21, 2014

Bill Haisley  
billy@deadspin.com

Re: FOIA #14-177

Dear Mr. Haisley:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request of March 28, 2014, and received in my office on that date, in which you requested:

“...any and all correspondence of University of Illinois employees in regards to the recent Northwestern University unionization issue.”

On April 7, you amended your request to advise us that:

“The dates I'm interested in are from January 25, 2014 to the present. For specific people, it should be athletic director Mike Thomas and associate AD Jason Lener; on the football coaching staff Tim Beckman, Alex Golesh, Bill Cubit, Mike Bellamy, and Tim Knox; and in the university's administration, I'd like to include Robert Easter and Phyllis Wise.”

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 134 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.” Under this exemption, documents containing legal advice given by an attorney that is required to remain confidential under state law, including, without limitation, the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct were redacted or withheld 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 personal email addresses and cell phone 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 details about personal vacations.
- 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

Office for University Relations

Urbana • 506 South Wright Street, MC 370 • Urbana, IL 61801 • (217) 333-6400 • Fax (217) 333-5733  
Chicago • 1737 West Polk Street, MC 971 • Chicago, IL 60612 • (312) 996-3772 • Fax (312) 996-1836

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.” This includes documents containing opinions, recommendations or the formulation of an action or policy.

- 140/7(1)(m) that exempts from disclosure “Communications between a public body and an attorney or auditor representing the public body that would not be subject to discovery in litigation, and materials prepared or compiled by or for a public body in anticipation of a criminal, civil or administrative proceeding upon the request of an attorney advising the public body...” Pursuant to this exemption, communications covered under the attorney client privilege and/or the work product doctrine that would not be subject to discovery were redacted or withheld from the responsive records.

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](mailto: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