May 7, 2014

Mr. Darold T. Barnum

Re: FOIA Request 14-295

Dear Mr. Barnum:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated and received in my office on April 30, 2014, in which you requested:

“Please send me up to ten contracts entered into by the University of Illinois, that do not involve collective bargaining, and that require disputes concerning the contract to be settled by binding arbitration. These contracts should be ones that have received approval by the UI Board of Trustees.”

Your request for documents and information listed in your email is considered unduly burdensome to the University. It is not known which University contracts contain a binding arbitration clause, other than collective bargaining agreements. Therefore, compliance with the request would unduly burden the public body by requiring staff to search through thousands of contracts to find ones that do not involve collective bargaining and that require disputes to be settled by binding arbitration. The short response time allowed by the FOIA makes the task of identifying, collecting and reviewing these potentially responsive records in a timely manner unduly burdensome upon the University.

Pursuant to Section 3(g) of the Act, we would like to extend to you an opportunity to modify your request to make it of more manageable proportions. Specifically we request clarification on the specific contract(s) you are looking for. In order to search our records we need the type of contract, a date and/or name of other party. These changes will help narrow your request to more manageable proportions.

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