

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

May 2, 2014

David Thomas


Re: FOIA #14-248

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request of April 17, 2014, and received in my office on April 18, 2014, in which you requested:

- “1. Any and all FOIA requests filed by David Thomas of Honolulu, HI in 2014 with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
2. Any and all printed (mailed) and electronic FOIA responses (computer) sent or mailed to David Thomas of Honolulu, HI by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in response to his FOIA requests in 2014.
3. University FOIA policy in regard to posting PDF versions of FOIA requests by private citizens. Why is my February 2014 FOIA request to the university posted to the Illinois.edu web site? Are you in control of even your own web site?
4. The business email address, business mailing address, and business telephone number of Trustee Patrick Fitzgerald.”

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 80 pages. Please note, additional private information was redacted under Section 7(1)(b) of the Act.

Further information about the University’s FOIA log is available at the University’s FOIA page, <http://www.foia.uillinois.edu>. As you can see, our website provides that “[a] log of all FOIA requests is maintained by the University’s chief records officer. Requests filed under the Freedom of Information Act, response letters, and responsive documents are themselves public records and subject to FOIA requests.” The portion of the website containing the FOIA log further advises that “[t]he goal of the FOIA request log is transparency for the public and increased understanding of the FOIA process and timelines. Response letters are posted when University Relations has completed processing a request. Response time varies depending on the elements of the request.” For your information, the Office for University Relations maintains the University FOIA website.

Our office’s goal of transparency reflects the requirements of the Act itself. Under Section 1.2 of FOIA, “All records in the custody or possession of a public body are presumed to be open to inspection or copying.” (5 ILCS 140/1.2) This includes FOIA requests and responses. Additionally, the maintenance of a public log of FOIA responses is required by the Act under 5 ILCS 140/9 which requires that “...Copies of all notices of denial shall be retained by each public body in a single central office file that is open to the public...”

I hope this information sheds light on our motives for posting response letters to our website.

It is our office’s understanding that you recently inquired about employment opportunities at the University of Illinois. Employment in the areas of instruction and research are handled at the respective departmental levels for which there are such opportunities. I would encourage you to reach out to the

Office for University Relations

Urbana • 108 Henry Administration Building • MC 370 • 506 South Wright Street • Urbana, IL 61801 • (217) 333-6400 • Fax (217) 333-5733
Chicago • 414 Administrative Office Building • MC 971 • 1737 West Polk Street • Chicago, IL 60612-7228 • (312) 996-3772 • Fax (312) 996-1836

specific departments that are of primary interest to you. Additionally, job opportunities are posted at the following websites:

University of Illinois at Chicago: <https://jobs.uic.edu/job-board>

University of Illinois at Springfield: <https://jobs.uis.edu/>

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: <https://jobs.illinois.edu/>

Thank you for your interest in employment opportunities at the University of Illinois. Should you wish to inspect or receive a physical copy of the above 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