

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

July 1, 2014

Mr. Matthew Gold


Re: FOIA Request 14-454

Dear Mr. Gold:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated and received in my office on June 23, 2014 in which you requested:

“The grade distributions from all courses taught at the Urbana campus during the spring semester of 2014.”

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 174 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. In this case, grade distributions are not displayed when a section has low enrollment or when all students in the class have the same grade. Because of the low enrollment in those classes or because all the students in a class received the same grade, the grade data could identify a student. Thus, such information was not provided to you as it would not only violate FERPA, but it would also be invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c) of the Act. In addition, teaching assistant names may have a value of “N/A” if the TA has requested anonymity under FERPA. Again, release of such information would both violate FERPA and be an invasion of personal privacy.

The files provided to you are in XLS format. Because this file type allows for editing of the included data, we ask that prior to opening the files you accept responsibility for accurate dissemination of this information and agree that no manipulation of the file that results in falsification of the information will occur.

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

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