

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

August 18, 2014

Jim Dey
The News-Gazette
jdey@news-gazette.com

Re: FOIA 14-524

Dear Mr. Dey:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request of August 4, in which you requested:

“a breakdown of the GPA and LSAT scores by sex, age, race and ethnicity on the incoming freshman class at the University of Illinois College of Law. I would appreciate these numbers for the past three years, so I can determine if the shortage of jobs for graduating lawyers is affecting the qualifications for incoming first-year students. To be clear, I am requesting these statistics for the freshman law school classes of 2013, 2014 and 2015.”

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 28 pages. These documents include summary sheets that contain information on the gender and race of the incoming students as well as a list of incoming students' GPAs broken down by gender and another list of LSAT scores broken down by gender. The University does not track the age of incoming students.

Please note, due to the low number of students in the incoming classes, we could not disaggregate this data further. Section 7(1)(a) of FOIA exempts “information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations adopted under federal or State law.” The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) prohibits the disclosure of education records without express written consent of the students identified in those records. Because of low number of students, providing GPA and LSAT scores broken down by race and gender could lead to the re-identification of a student. Release of such information would not only violate FERPA, but it would also be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c) of the Act.

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.

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

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