

# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

February 5, 2015

Matthew Gold



Re: FOIA Request 15-052

Dear Mr. Gold:

I write to respond to your narrowed Freedom of Information request dated January 29, in which you requested:

“All records pursuant to Student Code § 3-107 challenges in the last five (5) years from all § 3-107 committees formed by the specific academic units of: (1) Vet Med and (2) Graduate-level Political Science.”

Your request is being denied 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 or parent of the student. In this case, the documents responsive to your request are considered student records under FERPA and there is no way for the University to successfully de-identify these records. Therefore, the University is prohibited from releasing the records responsive to your request.
- 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 information contained within student records.

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\[at\]atg.state.il.us](mailto:publicaccess[at]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

Office for University Relations

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