February 5, 2015

Mr. David Mercer
Associated Press
DMercer@ap.org

Re: FOIA Request 15-092

Dear Mr. Mercer:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated and received in my office on February 5, 2015, in which you requested:

“…a copy of a University of Illinois self-report to the NCAA about a possible violation by assistant football coach Mike Bellamy in January 2014, the NCAA response to that report and an April 22, 2014, letter from Athletic Director Mike Thomas to Bellamy and head coach Tim Beckman.”

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 7 pages.

Portions of these documents have been redacted or withheld 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. Thus, identifiable student information was redacted from the responsive documents.

- 140/7(1)(b) that exempts from disclosure “Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order.” This includes home addresses, dates of birth, university identification numbers, and other unique identifiers.

- 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 about students and/or prospective students.
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