February 17, 2015

Andrew Scheinman  
ascheinman@scheinmanlaw.com  

Re: FOIA Request 15-042

Dear Dr. Scheinman:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated January 16, 2015, in which you requested:

“With regard to the document I reproduce there, which is an email sent by Chancellor Wise date stamped “July 24 12:00:00 AM” please:

1) specify whether this is midnight of the 23rd, zero dark of the 24th, or midnight of the 24th, zero dark of the 25th; and
2) specify whether the UIUC mail system has any component that allows for timed delivery of email or otherwise explains the timestamp of EXACTLY “12:00:00.”

Your FOIA request is not seeking a public document; instead, you are asking the University to provide an explanation. In Kenyon v. Garrels, the 4th District Illinois Appellate Court found that “requests for information that did not identify the documents to be produced or made available was not in proper form.” 184 Ill. App. 3d 28, 33 (Ill. App. Ct. 4th Dist. 1989). The court went on to say, FOIA “does not compel the agency to provide answers to questions posed by the inquirer.” Kenyon, 540 N.E.2d at 13 (citing Krohn v. Department of Justice (D.C. Cir. 1980), 628 F.2d 195).

Since your request is not a request for records, it is not in proper form and, thus, is denied.

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 any questions, please address them to the attention of Ms. Laura Clower, Associate University Counsel, at clower@uillinois.edu.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Hardy  
Executive Director  
and Chief Records Officer

cc: Laura Clower, Assoc. Univ. Counsel