

# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

February 20, 2015

Gary Ruskin  
U.S. Right to Know  
[gary@usrtk.org](mailto:gary@usrtk.org)

Re: FOIA 15-068

Dear Mr. Ruskin:

I am responding to your request dated January 28, under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act in which you request:

“all correspondence (letters, email) to or from Professor Moose to or from any staff or employees of any of the following organizations:

Monsanto

Syngenta

Bayer or Bayer CropScience

BASF

DuPont or Pioneer

Dow or Dow AgroSciences

Ketchum

GMO Answers

Biotechnology Industry Organization

Council for Biotechnology Information

Grocery Manufacturers Association

Fleishman Hillard

Ogilvy & Mather

Winner & Mandabach

The time period covered by this request is from January 1, 2013 to the present.”

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 231 pages.

Portions of these documents have been redacted or other documents have been withheld pursuant to the following section(s) of the Act:

- 140/ 7(1)(a) of the of the Act, which exempts from disclosure “Information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations implementing adopted under federal or State law.” The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. §1232g) protects the privacy of student education

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  
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records and prohibits the release of any information from a student's education record without the consent of the eligible student. Therefore, identifiable student information was redacted from the responsive records.

- 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 personal cell phone numbers, email addresses and home addresses.
- 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 personal family information, information about candidates not chosen for employment with the University, and other personal correspondence not pertaining to public business.
- 140/7(1)(f) that exempts from disclosure "Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated, except that a specific record or relevant portion of a record shall not be exempt when the record is publicly cited and identified by the head of the public body." The responsive documents contain preliminary discussions, drafts, expressions of opinion, and other communications regarding the formulation of action or policies.
- 140/7(1)(g) that exempts "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person or business where the trade secrets or commercial or financial information are furnished under a claim that they are proprietary, privileged or confidential, and that disclosure of the trade secrets or commercial or financial information would cause competitive harm to the person or business . . ." This includes trade secrets or commercial information that has been determined to be proprietary, privileged, or confidential. Disclosure of this information would cause competitive harm to the person or business.
- 140/7(1)(i) that exempts "valuable formulae, computer geographic systems, designs, drawings and research data obtained or produced by any public body when disclosure could reasonably be expected to produce private gain or public loss." This includes material that could produce private gain or create public loss if disclosed.
- 140/7(1)(j)(iv) exempts from disclosure "course materials or research materials used by faculty members." This includes faculty research information.

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](mailto: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