


UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

April 23, 2015

Anonymous


Re: FOIA 15-259

Dear Anonymous:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request of April 9, 2015, and received in my office on that date, in which you requested:

- “1) any and all committee records, minutes, notes, e-mails, electronic communications, written communications, documents, voicemails or rubrics pertaining to how the 2015 Rickert Awards for Service are and were decided for the 2015 graduating class.
- 2) any and all committee records, minutes, notes, e-mails, electronic communications, documents, voicemails or rubrics of any and all discussions regarding what would or would not qualify or disqualify someone from receiving a 2015 Rickert Award for Service.
- 3) any and all documents, records, e-mails, notes, memoranda, rubrics, electronic communications, or voicemails regarding any official or unofficial policy regarding the selection of 2015 Rickert Award for Service
- 4) any and all documents, records, e-mails, notes, rubrics, memoranda, electronic communications, or voicemails dealing with the selection and appointment, or denial of selection or appointment of faculty committee members who decided the recipients of the 2015 Rickert Awards for Service including the names of faculty members who were appointed or selected or denied appointment or selection for the award committee.
- 5) any and all documents, records e-mails, notes, rubrics, memoranda, electronic communications, or voicemails pertaining to how credit received for service was taken into account in deciding the 2015 Rickert Awards for Service
- 6) any and all documents, notes, letters, records, e-mails, notes, rubrics, memoranda, electronic communications, or voicemails pertaining to how a nominee’s involvement

(or lack thereof) in public service was taken into account in deciding the 2015 Rickert Awards for Service.

7) Any and all documents, records, notes, letters, e-mails, notes, rubrics, memoranda, electronic communications, written communications, or voicemails pertaining to why nominees were not selected or disqualified for the 2015 Rickert Award for Service.

8) The total number of nominees for the 2015 Rickert Award for Service and how many nomination forms were submitted for each nominee including the names of the nominator(s)''

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 102 pages.

Portions of these documents have been redacted and other documents have been 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 or withheld from the responsive documents.
- 140/7(1)(b) of FOIA, which 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 cell phone numbers, conference call numbers and passcodes.
- 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 student information and information about personal family matters.
- 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." This includes drafts, preliminary discussions, recommendations, expressions of opinion, and communications regarding the formulation of an action or plan.

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