April 17, 2015

David Prochaska
Independent Media Center
303 E. Sherwin Circle
Urbana, IL 61802

Re: FOIA #15-239

Dear Mr. Prochaska:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request of April 2, 2015, and received in my office on that date, in which you requested:

“...1. All University Contracts, Reports, Communications and Advice with and from any and all outside consulting firms, including but not limited to Huron Consulting Group, that the University has retained and paid to advise it and President Easter on any and all issues pertaining to President Easter’s November 2014 charge from the UI Board of Trustees to report on the proposed UIUC medical school, including how it would relate to the existing UIC College of Medicine, and which resulted in the remarks the President made March 11-12, 2015 to the ASAC and BOT meetings, respectively http://www.news-gazette.com/sites/all/files/pdf/2015/03/11/March11.remarks.pdf .

2. Documentation of fees paid by and/or assessed to the University of Illinois to/by outside consulting firms, including but not limited to Huron Consulting Group, for all Contracts, Reports, Communications and Advice, including but not limited to matter name, type, vendor and expenses, for services rendered in pursuance of the President’s charge described above, from April 1, 2014 to the present.

3. The names of all matters handled by outside consulting firms, including but not limited to Huron Consulting Group, in pursuance of the President’s charge described above, including but not limited to forum, matter name, date filed, and subtype, from April 1, 2014 to the present.”

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 186 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)(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 cell phone numbers.

• 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 of 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 draft reports and communications containing recommendations or preliminary notes.

One record referenced in the documents was not attached to the packet as it is available online at http://medicine.uic.edu/whitepaper.

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