May 8, 2015

Sheribel Rothenberg

Re: FOIA 15-285- Amended

Dear Ms. Sheribel:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated and received in my office on April 16, 2015, in which you requested:

“Within the five business day period prescribed by 5 ILCS 140/3, or within such extensions of that period as are authorized by the IFOIA, you are requested to make available for inspection and copying the following public records of the University:

1. Public records pertaining to the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education's investigation/review of the Ped Hem-One Fellowship at COMC during 2014-2015.

2. Public records pertaining to any and all plans for restructuring, reorganizing or otherwise materially modifying the Ped-Hem One Fellowship, in light of the investigation/review referenced in paragraph 1.

3. Public records pertaining to the hiring of and employment of Meares by COMC in 2015, including the hiring process giving rise to her employment, public notices of the availability of the position for which she was hired, her job title, her compensation, the budget line items from which her compensation is paid, her job description, persons reporting to her, to whom she reports, and any contracts entered into between COMC and Meares in connection with Mears' employment at COMC.

4. Public records identifying any individual, other than Meares, who holds a PhD degree in social work and whom COMC employs in some capacity, public notices of the availability of the position for which the individual was hired, his/her compensation, the budget line items from which his/her compensation is paid, his/her job description, persons reporting to him/her, to whom he/she reports, and any contracts entered into between COMC and such individual in connection with his/her position.

5. Public records pertaining to incentive payments made by COMC to COMC Department Heads on or after July 1, 2011, including but not limited to records: identifying the recipients of such payments, the amount of such payments, by individual
receiving them; setting faith the standards for the award and withdrawal of such payments; explaining the decision making process for such awards or withdrawals.

6. (a) The five year review of Usha Raj, M.D. formerly chair/head of the Department of Pediatrics at COMC, which review was completed in the first quarter of 2015, and was the basis, in part of her being discharged from her position as Department chair/head; (b) all public records cited or referenced in the review; (c) all public records not cited in or referenced in the review, but that were submitted to the authors of the review, in connection with its conduct, whether or not the authors of the review considered or relied on such records in completing the review.

7. All five year reviews completed for any Department chair at COMC since January 1, 2009.

8. The Salary Equity Survey and all public records cited or referenced in the Survey.

9. All public records describing or explaining any changes in policy or practice (including any adjustments to salaries) taken based on the Salary Equity Survey.

10. All public records pertaining to COMC faculty allegations (during 2009-2013 inclusive) of differential treatment of COMC faculty based on gender and/or race and/or national origin/ancestry and/or age.”

Later, on April 23, 2015 you amended your request to:

“Please respond to items 1, 2, 5, 8 and 9 at this time, thus reducing our requests to five categories of records.”

Information responsive to point 8 of your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 24 pages. Certain documents have been withheld pursuant to the following section(s) of the Act:

- 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 documents containing drafts and information used in the formulation of an action or plan.

No records could be located responsive to points 1, 2, and 9 of your request.

Our office has conducted a preliminary search for the documents responsive to point 5 of this request.
Your request for documents and information listed in point 5 is considered unduly burdensome to the University. Given the number of pay periods and departments subject to your request, compliance with the same would require a review of almost one thousand transactions to obtain the information responsive to this point of your request. The limited staff available to perform such a search and review and the short response time allowed by the FOIA makes the task of review and response in a timely manner unduly burdensome upon the University. For this reason, the University’s burden to process this request outweighs the public interest.

Pursuant to Section 3(g) of the Act, we would like to extend to you an opportunity to modify your request to make it of more manageable proportions. Specifically we request that you shorten the time period of your request, limit your request to specific employees or departments, or narrow the scope of the information you are seeking. These changes will help narrow your request to more manageable proportions. I encourage you to call Kathy McCarthy from my office at the phone number below to further discuss ways to narrow your request. If you do not reduce the request, it shall be treated as a denial.

Finally, some transmittal information was redacted as it is not responsive to your request. These redactions are in grey rather than black.

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