

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

May 20, 2015

Scott Reeder
Illinois News Network
newsroom@ilnews.org

Re: FOIA Request #15-392

Dear Mr. Reeder:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated May 13, 2015, and received in my office on that date, in which you requested:

“I’m researching the prevalence of “release time” in labor contracts at Illinois state universities.

Release time is when local union officers are released from their normal work responsibilities from the university to do union business.
These officials continue to draw pay while they are working for the union.

If your university does not engage in this practice, please just send me a note letting me know.

If it does, please send:

- The provisions within each of the university’s collective bargaining agreements providing for “release time” for union officials to perform union-related activities while being paid by the county.
- The pay record of the employee(s) who receive this benefit.

In lieu of the actual documents, a statement of what annual financial benefits accorded union leadership by the university for union work would suffice.”

For civil service employees, sections 11.121(L) and 11.121(M) of the University of Illinois Policy and Rules have a provision that allows employees time away from work to participate in the grievance process, subject to operational needs. Individual collective bargaining agreements may contain other provisions.

The pertinent section of the Policy and Rules is available at <https://nessie.uihr.uillinois.edu/pdf/policy/rules/pr11r12.pdf>.

Collective bargaining agreements are available at the following websites:

<http://www.ahr.illinois.edu/forms/vap.pdf>

<http://www.ahr.illinois.edu/geo.pdf>

https://nessie.uihr.uillinois.edu/cf/policies/index.cfm?Item_id=385

https://www.hr.uic.edu/labor_relations/labor_agreements/

<http://www.uis.edu/humanresources/labor/>

As there are no payroll codes to track release time, we are unable to run a report for that information.

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