

# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

May 19, 2015

Matt Daniels  
The News-Gazette  
[mdaniels@news-gazette.com](mailto:mdaniels@news-gazette.com)

Re: FOIA Request 15-386

Dear Mr. Daniels:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated and received in my office on May 12, 2014, in which you requested:

“all written and electronic communication to or from Tim Beckman, Mike Thomas, the UI Sports Information Department and the UI football offices regarding Simon Cvijanovic.”

Please be advised, your request is denied pursuant to Section 7(1)(a) 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 records and prohibits the release of any information from a student’s education record without the consent of the eligible student. In this case, because you are seeking communications regarding a student, the documents responsive to your request would be considered student records under FERPA and there would be no way for the University to successfully de-identify these records. Therefore, the University is prohibited from releasing records responsive to your request. Student records are also considered personal information exempt under Section 7(1)(c) of the Act.

Even if the records you were seeking were not prohibited from being released under FERPA, your request would be unduly burdensome for the University to process. Your request seeks documents from multiple offices with over twenty employees and is not limited to a certain timeframe.

If you wish to proceed with your FOIA, our office recommends that you seek emails from specific University employees about general topics, instead of a specific student.

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

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  
Chicago • 414 Administrative Office Building • MC 971 • 1737 West Polk Street • Chicago, IL 60612-7228 • (312) 996-3772 • Fax (312) 996-1836

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 my colleague Kathy McCarthy at 217-333-6400.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Hardy  
Executive Director  
and Chief Records Officer