

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

July 22, 2015

Julie Wurth
The News Gazette
jwurth@news-gazette.com

Re: FOIA Request 15-580

Dear Ms. Wurth:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated July 8, 2015, and received in my office on that date, in which you requested:

“...like a copy of the contract(s) with Edelman consultants to review the branding strategy and communication structure at the Urbana-Champaign campus, as well as any other contracts with that firm over the past 12 months. I would also like copies of contracts with any other consulting firm on the general topic of campus communications in the past 12 months.

I would also like a copy of the contract with Jasculca Terman and Associates of Chicago awarded earlier this spring for media relations and communications consulting, as well as any other contracts with that firm over the past 12 months.

”

Some information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 64 pages.

Portions of these documents have been redacted 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 or parent of the student. In this case, a name of a student was redacted from the responsive records.
- 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 a personal cell phone number.
- 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

Office for University Relations

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invasion of personal privacy, unless the disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information.” This includes student information.

The portion of your request seeking “...contracts with any other consulting firm on the general topic of campus communications in the past 12 months” is considered unduly burdensome to the University in that these records are not maintained in a central location and, without a specific vendor name, a search of all University departments would have to be conducted to locate the responsive documents. 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 limit the scope of your request to campus communication consultant contracts within a specific department. This change will help narrow your request to more manageable proportions. If you do not reduce the request, it shall be treated as a denial.

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