



November 2, 2020

Via electronic mail

Wade Fagen-Ulmschneider
[REDACTED]

Re: FOIA Request 20-875

Dear Wade Fagen-Ulmschneider:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated October 27, 2020, in which you requested:

“the grade distribution for all courses offered on the Urbana-Champaign campus in Spring 2020.”

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 67 pages.

Please be advised that certain information has been withheld under section 140/7(1)(a) that exempts from disclosure “[i]nformation specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations 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. In this case, grade distributions are not displayed when a section has low enrollment or when all students in the class have the same grade.

Because of the low enrollment in those classes or because all the students in a class received the same grade, the grade data could identify a student. Thus, such information was not provided to you as it would not only violate FERPA, but it would also be invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA which exempts from disclosure “personal 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 877-299-3642, 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