

May 19, 2020

Toni Pitts
[REDACTED]

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Ms. Pitts:

This is to follow up on my correspondence from May 12, 2020, which indicated the college's technology systems were back online and the technical capability to retrieve and review the requested correspondence was restored. In your original request, dated April 20, 2020, you asked the college provide the following records:

“Description: From the current and previous academic year (August 2018-present), I request any emails to or from, or any other correspondence to/from the following individuals:

President Tom Ramage,
Vice President Pam Lau,
Associate Vice President Nancy Sutton,
Dean Derrick Baker,
Professor Matthew Hurt and
Professor Rochelle Harden

that contains information regarding any student complaints against Professor Rochelle Harden. This request includes information regarding claims of student mistreatment, harassment, capricious grading, bullying, violation of university policy, or any other student grievance.”

Parkland College's Response:

The College has attached two PDF's containing the responsive documents, totaling 108 pages. The second document attached is the correspondence produced in your first request, pertaining to your complaint to the college which we believe to also be responsive to this request. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(f), many documents requested are exempt from disclosure. This provision of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act explicitly exempts “preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated.” Many records requested are deliberative or preliminary in nature and are, thus, exempt.

Personal information, such as student names and email addresses, have been redacted and are exempt from disclosure pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c), which specifically exempts “personal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.”

As Vice President for Communications and External Affairs, I am responsible for granting and denying the requests for records under the *Freedom of Information Act*. Please be aware that this response to your request is pursuant to my understanding of your FOIA request. If I have misunderstood your request,

please let me know as soon as possible so I may provide the correct information.

Finally, if you believe that this response constitutes a denial of your request, you have the right to have this response reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Fax: 217-782-1396
E-mail: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us

You also have the right to seek judicial review of this response by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the Public Access Counselor or State court, you will need to include a copy of this letter for the review.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Stephanie L. Stuart
Vice President for Communications and External Affairs

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CC: FILE
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