



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

November 8, 2010

Ms. Neera Chatterjee
Office of General Counsel
The University of Texas System
201 West Seventh Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2902

OR2010-16873

Dear Ms. Chatterjee:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 399664 (OGC#132902).

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (the "university") received a request for six categories of information. You state you will release some of the responsive information to the requestor. You state that some of the submitted information has been redacted pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), section 1232g of title 20 of the United States Code.¹ You claim that some of the submitted information is not subject to the Act; alternatively, you assert that the information you have marked is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.136 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.²

¹The United States Department of Education Family Policy Compliance Office (the "DOE") has informed this office that FERPA does not permit state and local educational authorities to disclose to this office, without parental consent, unredacted, personally identifiable information contained in education records for the purpose of our review in the open records ruling process under the Act. The DOE has determined that FERPA determinations must be made by the educational authority in possession of the education records. We have posted a copy of the letter from the DOE to this office on the Attorney General's website: <http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/20060725usdoe.pdf>.

²We assume that the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. See Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

We first address your contention that the calendar entries you have marked are not public information subject to the Act. The Act is only applicable to "public information." See Gov't Code § 552.021. Section 552.002(a) defines public information as "information that is collected, assembled, or maintained under a law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business: (1) by a governmental body; or (2) for a governmental body and the governmental body owns the information or has a right of access to it." *Id.* § 552.002(a). Information that is collected, assembled, or maintained by a third party may be subject to disclosure under the Act if it is maintained for a governmental body, the governmental body owns or has a right of access to the information, and the information pertains to the transaction of official business. See Open Records Decision No. 462 (1987).

You assert that the records you have marked "were not collected, assembled or maintained in connection with the transaction of any [u]niversity business, nor were they collected, assembled, or maintained pursuant to any law or ordinance." Upon review of your arguments and the information at issue, we agree that the calendar entries you have marked are purely personal, and thus do not constitute "information that is collected, assembled, or maintained under a law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business" by or for the university. See Gov't Code § 552.021; see also Open Records Decision No. 635 (1995) (statutory predecessor not applicable to personal information unrelated to official business and created or maintained by state employee involving de minimis use of state resources). Thus, we conclude that the marked calendar entries are not subject to the Act and the university need not release them under the Act.³

You assert that some of the remaining information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.136 of the Government Code. Section 552.136 provides in relevant part:

(a) In this section, "access device" means a card, plate, code, account number, personal identification number, electronic serial number, mobile identification number, or other telecommunications service, equipment, or instrument identifier or means of account access that alone or in conjunction with another access device may be used to:

(1) obtain money, goods, services, or another thing of value; or

(2) initiate a transfer of funds other than a transfer originated solely by paper instrument.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential.

³As our ruling for this information is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against its disclosure.

Gov't Code § 552.136(a)-(b). You seek to withhold a teleconferencing access code under section 552.136. You explain that the teleconferencing telephone number and access codes do not change, and can be used to access teleconferencing accounts of the university in order to arrange long distance telephone calls. Upon review, we determine that the university must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code.

In summary, the marked calendar entries are not subject to the Act and the university need not release them under the Act. The university must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released to the requestor.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Burgess
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

VB/dls

Ref: ID# 399664

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)