

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by)
Committee on Courses and) Report of Hearing Officer
Curricula, Complainant)
) Docket #FIC77-87
against)
) June 3, 1977
State of Connecticut; and)
President of the University of)
Connecticut, Respondents)

The above captioned matter was heard as a contested case on May 27, 1977, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared, stipulated to certain facts, and presented exhibits, testimony and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found:

1. The respondents are public agencies as defined by §1-18a(a), G.S.
2. By letter dated April 6, 1977, the complainant requested from the respondent president the faculty evaluations conducted annually by the Office of Institutional Research covering academic years 1974-75 and 1975-76.
3. Having failed to receive a response within four business days, the complainant brought the present appeal by letter filed with the Commission on April 25, 1977, requesting a hearing to determine the availability of such documents.
4. The University of Connecticut asks its students to evaluate their course instructors on Form No. AA118, Plaintiff's Exhibit A, which form is distributed freely to the students.
5. The aforesaid data is processed by computer and compiled into three categories of rating scales. Such rating scale is contained on a single page print-out form.
6. The aforesaid three categories rate the instructor as follows:
 - a. by individual course taught
 - b. by overall courses taught
 - c. by comparison with all other instructors teaching the same course of study

7. At the hearing herein, it was determined that the aforesaid three categories of rating scales are what the complainant is seeking in its request.

8. The compiled data, derived from the student evaluations as aforesaid, is utilized by the university in its overall evaluation of a faculty member.

9. The respondents contend that disclosure is not required under §1-19(b)(1), G.S. as constituting personnel or similar files the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of personal privacy.

10. The aforesaid documents are contained in personnel and similar files and are used in the process of evaluation of faculty members in matters of retention, promotion and tenure.

11. It is found that disclosure of the requested documents would constitute an invasion of personal privacy.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above captioned complaint:

1. The complaint is hereby dismissed.

Judith R. Lahey

Commissioner Judith Lahey

as Hearing Officer

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission on
June 22, 1977.

Mitchell W. Pearlman

Mitchell W. Pearlman as Acting
Clerk of the Commission