



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 27, 2017

Ms. Jennifer Burnett
Attorney & Public Information Coordinator
The University of Texas System
201 West 7th Street, Suite 600
Austin, Texas 78701-2901

OR2017-09031

Dear Ms. Burnett:

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# 655074 (OGC# 173908).

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (the "university") received a request for a specified investigative report. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 of the Government Code encompasses section 51.971 of the Education Code. Section 51.971 of the Education Code provides, in relevant part, the following:

(a) In this section:

(1) "Compliance program" means a process to assess and ensure compliance by the officers and employees of an institution of higher

education with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies, including matters of:

- (A) ethics and standards of conduct;
- (B) financial reporting;
- (C) internal accounting controls; or
- (D) auditing.

(2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

...

(e) Information is excepted from disclosure under [the Act] if it is collected or produced:

- (1) in a compliance program investigation and releasing the information would interfere with an ongoing compliance investigation[.]

Educ. Code § 51.971(a), (e)(1). You state the university is an institution of higher education for purposes of section 61.003 of the Education Code. *See id.* § 51.971(a)(2). You state the submitted information pertains to an open, ongoing compliance investigation concerning a complaint reported to the university's Office of Institutional Equity. Based on your representations and our review, we agree the information at issue pertains to the university's compliance program for purposes of section 51.971. *See id.* § 51.971(a). You also represent release of the information at this time would interfere with, and potentially compromise, the ongoing investigation. Accordingly, we conclude the university must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 51.971(e)(1) of the Education Code.

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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, 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 may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Neal".

Tim Neal
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

TN/sdk

Ref: ID# 655074

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)