

1979 WL 42815 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

February 16, 1979

*1 Mr. Frank Petrusak
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
The College of Charleston
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Dear Professor Petrusak:

In your letter dated February 15, 1979, you requested that we advise you as to whether or not a citizen of this State possesses a right of access to the salary figures for individual faculty members and administrators at State colleges and universities.

The Freedom of Information Act [60 STAT. Act No. 593 at 1736 (1978)] provides in Section 5(a)(6) thereof as follows:
The following matters may be exempt from disclosure under the provisions of this act:

* * *

(6) Salaries of employees below the level of department head; provided, however, that complete salary schedules showing compensation ranges for each employee classification, including longevity steps, where applicable shall be made available.

As you can see, therefore, a state supported college or university need not disclose a faculty member's or an administrator's salary if the person is employed at a level below that of a department head.

Best wishes,

C. Tolbert Goolsby, Jr.
Deputy Attorney General

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