



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NJEA Representative, Chris Berzinski, recently filed an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) Request with the College for records allegedly related to a pending lawsuit filed against the College by a former purchasing department employee. Many of these same documents were sought by Mr. Berzinski and College Faculty Association officers in a prior OPRA lawsuit filed against the College in February 2011, which was dismissed by the Ocean County Superior Court last month.

The documents currently sought by Mr. Berzinski and the Association, like those previously sought in the lawsuit which was dismissed, are not required to be disclosed under OPRA. However, once again, Mr. Berzinski and the Association have declared their intent to file yet another lawsuit for substantially the same records, implying that the College has something to hide. Nothing can be further from the truth.

Rather than responding to piecemeal requests for selective documents and incurring unnecessary legal costs, the College believes it is in the Public Interest that a complete record of the former purchasing department employee's recommendations and his supervisor's responses be made available to the public for its examination.

The College has at all times acted in full compliance with County College procurement law and constantly seeks to improve its effectiveness. The Board of Trustees, the President, and the procurement staff welcome an assessment of the legality of the College's purchasing transactions by any legitimate authority, including the FBI.

In order to correct the misrepresentations concerning its procurement policies and activities, the College will make available for public inspection a complete copy of the documents related to this matter on Monday, March 12, 2012, after 12:00 pm in the Ocean County College Business and Finance Office or through email at afeneis@ocean.edu.

March 11, 2012