

# Judge sides with Teamsters in WVU FOIA suit

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MORGANTOWN — Monongalia County Circuit Judge Phillip Gaujot ruled against the WVU Board of Governors on Tuesday, March 15, in a Freedom of Information Act suit filed in February by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The Teamsters were seeking unredacted email exchanges regarding a WVU Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) study regarding the Legislature's right-to-work bill: SB 1, the West Virginia Workplace Freedom Act.

The study was requested by Senate President Bill Cole, R-Mercer, and House Speaker Tim Armstead, R-Kanawha, and authored by John Deskins, director of WVU's Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER).

A full copy of Gaujot's ruling was not yet available, but Teamsters' attorney Sean Cook summarized it for TheDPost.com.

WVU must provide all the requested email communications without redactions, he said.

Also, WVU is ordered to produce an index identifying the withheld documents to the Teamsters, provide this index and the actual documents to the court for review, so that the court can determine if these documents are exempt from disclosure under FOIA.