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# TCC releases senior staff evaluations

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Tarrant County College released a swath of documents last week, illuminating a recent political dispute between some members of the school's board of trustees and the college district's chancellor.

Texas' attorney general ordered the release of the documents -- personnel evaluations of senior staff -- which were requested by the *Star-Telegram* after a board member went public with the disagreement. The evaluations showed little controversy and all department heads rated satisfactory or better.

Chancellor Leonardo de la Garza never stated publicly why he favored withholding the documents.

But in a July 23 letter to the attorney general's open records division, he wrote that releasing the evaluations could violate federal age discrimination laws.

He also wrote that the board's interest in members of his executive leadership team could affect the school's accreditation. Lastly, he cited property interests and privacy issues.

The attorney general's ruling made the evaluations public under the Texas Public Information Act.

Bill Lace, executive assistant to the chancellor, said Tuesday that de la Garza was initially concerned about confusion of executive authority if the board got involved in staff evaluations. The chief executive's role is spelled out in the rules of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Lace said.

He did not know what de la Garza meant when he referred to age discrimination and property interests in the letter. He said the chancellor would not comment further.

Trustee Bobby McGee said in July that the board wanted to see the evaluations so members could plan for the succession of de la Garza. McGee said that de la Garza refused to provide the evaluations at the time.

Later, the chancellor signed a contract that required him to provide information related to succession planning.

Also online: [www.tccd.edu](http://www.tccd.edu)