



Allen L. Sessoms
President

March 1, 2011

Dear University Community:

I would like to take the opportunity to address concerns that have arisen in response to the February 28th Fox 5 report regarding travel related expenses I have incurred in carrying out my duties as the President of the University of the District of Columbia.

Fox 5 sought to obtain information about my current compensation and my travel expenses. Upon receiving a Freedom of Information Request for Fox 5, my staff provided the television station with details pertaining to both, including details of my contract with the University's Board of Trustees and a number of receipts for different travel arrangements I have made over the last two and a half years. On February 28th, Fox 5 aired a story that featured a number of these documents.

The receipts used in the story were taken out of context and do not fully address the purpose and nature of each trip, as well as any extenuating circumstances surrounding the travel. For example, the University has a campus in Cairo, Egypt, accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. In order to maintain its accreditation, the Commission requires assurance that the institution is carrying out activities that were planned or were being implemented, and this required me to do an on-site visit. Additionally, travel and other expenses incurred by the University in the maintenance of this program are paid for by our Egyptian counterparts.

Within the same trip, and at nominal cost to the University, I stopped in London to meet with representatives of the University of Sunderland. Last July, the University signed an educational exchange agreement with our counterparts at Sunderland that allows our students to study abroad and facilitates faculty and other exchanges. As President of the University, I am required to travel to numerous conferences, symposiums, and annual meetings to promote and build the institution's reputation.

Finally, I would like to address the source of funds for my compensation and my travel and travel-related expenses. The Fox 5 story insinuated that the costs of my compensation and expenses were being born by the District of Columbia taxpayer. This is untrue. Outside of my compensation, which is paid for by the University's local appropriation from the District of Columbia government, any expenses incurred by my office are paid for out of University generated revenue, including external reimbursements, private grant funds, and Foundation funds. All expenditures made by my office, as all expenditures made by the University, are subject to approval by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

Sincerely,

Allen L. Sessoms

University System of the District of Columbia

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