

University of the District of Columbia

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Board of Trustees Statement
by
Chairman Joseph L. Askew, Jr.
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RE: President's Internal Travel Audit

The University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees has taken many occasions to express to students, faculty, alumni, Council, Mayor, media and all who will listen the significant progress that this institution has made working together over the last three years under the leadership of the University's President, Dr. Allen Sessoms. Together we have been able to: a) create a separately branded Community College with its own headquarters and auxiliary sites across the city; b) establish admission standards for the four year academic programs to give greater value to students' bachelor degrees; c) secure current student housing off-campus for more than 100 students across the street from the main Van Ness campus; d) secure \$35,000,000 for the construction of a state of the art Student Center to be completed in 2012/2013; e) secure \$220,000,000 in additional proposed future capital funding for much-needed renovation of aging university facilities; f) develop a comprehensive strategic plan that outlines our direction for the next five years; g) establish an academic faculty senate to foster shared academic governance; h) create new and reinvigorate existing academic programs and; i) manage an annual operating budget of more than \$142,000,000 and a current capital budget of \$40,000,000.

Though these accomplishments demonstrate the progress of the institution and the appropriate management of University resources under Dr. Sessoms' leadership, the Board has taken very seriously the questions and concerns raised with regard to his travel and associated expenses. On February 4, 2011, the Board took action to initiate an internal audit of the President's travel and associated expenses in an effort to identify valid areas of concern and to determine the appropriate actions to be taken. The audit was complete on April 23, 2011 and the Board is now in a position to prudently and fairly determine what further actions are appropriate.

Based on the findings of the internal audit of the President's business travel the Board of Trustees is acting to require the President to do the following: a) Reimburse the University for all personal expenses paid by the University; b) Reimburse the University the difference between the cost to fly first class and the approximate cost of what it would have cost to fly full fare coach between December 2009 until present; c) Discontinue the use of a University travel card until all reimbursements are received and the Board approves further card usage; d) Complete training in District travel policy and agree to comply with all travel requirements; e) Develop a plan to

ensure future compliance with applicable business travel laws, regulations and the terms of his employment agreement, such plan to be submitted for Board approval and; f) Adhere immediately to all requirements for business travel.

The internal audit also identified areas of concern in the University's overall travel review and approval process for employee business travel. To address these areas the Board is further directing that the University prepare updated travel policies and written procedures institution-wide to provide for greater accountability, transparency, and cost and operational efficiency.

The Board believes these actions to be prudent and necessary to address these matters as expeditiously as reasonably possible. The Board looks forward to continuing to work with the President and remains confident in his ability to further advance the institution and to work with the Board, students, faculty, alumni, Mayor and Council to quickly move beyond any distractions that may impede or diminish the monumental progress at the institution that has been made over the last few years under his leadership.