Information on the President’s Expenses at the University of Victoria

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation issued a news release on Dec. 8, 2014 on financial statements it had received earlier in the year from 25 post-secondary institutions in BC about the level of presidents’ business expenses in the years 2012-13 and 2013-14.

For the University of Victoria, that period covers the presidencies of both Dr. David Turpin who was in office until June 30, 2013, and President Jamie Cassels, who took office July 1, 2013.

The University of Victoria is committed to transparency, fiscal responsibility and accountability to the public. It annually discloses the expenses of the President in its Financial Statements that can be viewed [here](#) and on the BC government’s Public Sector Employers’ Council [website](#).

In addition, since July 2014 President Cassels has publicly posted his detailed travel and business expenses quarterly. Reports on his travel (economy fare for air travel), and business expenses can be found [here](#).

In January 2014, President Cassels’ contract was modified, at his request. The changes froze his salary for this year, reduced by half the increases for which he is eligible in the remaining four years, and reduced the administrative leave he will earn over the life of the contract.

The changes reduced his compensation by $330,000 over the term of the five-year contract. At President Cassels’ suggestion, the foregone compensation was applied to student financial aid, the Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities, and general university purposes.

As the CEO of the university, the President is responsible to fulfill the vision and academic mission of the university. The President directs the operation of the University, including its academic work, business affairs, alumni relations, government relations and engagement with the broader community.

All of the President’s expense claims are approved for eligibility and reimbursement by the chair of the Board of Governors.

Spousal expenditures are not claimed for reimbursement unless pre-approved by the board chair and spousal attendance is clearly to the advantage of the university such as at external relations events related to alumni, donors and fundraising. Since he took office in July 2013, President Cassels has sought reimbursement for less than $1,000 in spousal expenditures.