

Hello Jack, Terry and Steve,

As you can well imagine, there is a great deal of shock, consternation and resistance to the very large budget cuts which are being imposed on the academic units of the University. On behalf of the faculty who through their work make Brock the university that it is, I must protest the size of the cuts being asked of the units that perform the University's academic mission, which is, after all, the reason for the very existence of the University.

There are three immediate issues (I'm sure there will be more) that I must raise with you at this time, and I would appreciate a timely response to these.

1) The entire cutting exercise is based on the premise that provincial government funding will be cut. Information from OCUFA seems to imply that there has been no announcement from the government about cutting the funding. If there has been an announcement, could you please share it with the University community?

2) Academic departments, and the Chairs who manage them, are responsible for only a certain portion of the budget pertaining to their functions. These are the operating budgets and the "Schedule 4" -- usually TA's and part-time instructors. In one Faculty, however, the Chairs have been presented with a global budget figure which includes the salaries of all BUFA members within their units, and told to cut 7% of that (much larger) figure. Not only is this blatantly unfair, to ask units to make cuts based on figures over which they have no control, it is also most inequitable, as Chairs in other Faculties are not being asked to make such deep cuts.

3) Yet another Dean has suggested that there will be adjustments in the percentages of courses to be taught by non-members of BUFA, and increases in the number of courses individual non-members can teach. I hope that the Deans will be reminded that these numbers are clearly stated in article 19 of the *Collective Agreement*, which has been signed and is in effect until 2011. On the latter issue, we should recall that the last increase in this number came about through negotiations for the 2000-2003 *Agreement*, and was the subject of several months of negotiations and, finally, mediation. Giving way still further on the increasing casualization of education would be contrary to the position that BUFA has historically taken, and is highly unlikely to happen.

On behalf of all BUFA members, and the academic programmes which we make possible, I hope that some other routes may be explored in order to deal with any upcoming "challenges" and that, ultimately, this University takes a stand to defend the current and future academic success of the entire University community.

Carol Merriam