

Motion adopted unanimously by the Department of Sociology, February 5, 2009:

The Department of Sociology registers its firm opposition to the budgetary cuts to academic programs currently being demanded by the university administration. The chaotic situation precipitated by the top-down directive to cut budgets by 5% to 7% highlights the need to reorganize and democratize decision-making processes on a university-wide level to ensure transparency and the best possible outcomes. To date, a convincing rationale for the cuts has not been articulated. The administration appears to be anticipating revenue/funding shortfalls that have not yet materialized. The Brock University administration should join with other universities and colleges in Ontario to insist that the provincial government give a higher priority to post-secondary education funding, particularly in light of the fact that Ontario ranks last among Canadian provinces in post-secondary education funding per capita. Further, in the event of a funding shortfall from the Province, Brock University should run budgetary deficits of sufficient size and duration as an alternative to making cuts that will harm the academic integrity of our programs, the livelihoods of our Teaching Assistants and other teaching staff, or the working conditions of students, faculty and staff.