

TO: Chairs and Directors:

With regard to the current budget cutting exercise being imposed on academic units, please note the following motion passed unanimously by the Department of Political Studies:

MOVED That as part of the budget cutting exercise we have been asked to engage in, the Department send a memo to the Dean with a cc. to BUFA specifically outlining how proposed cuts would a) undermine the academic integrity of our undergraduate and graduate programs; b) lead to the elimination of a significant number of part-time teaching positions and course offerings; and c) lead to the elimination of a significant number of TA positions, thus hurting our graduate students.

In general, I would urge departments to ensure that deans are aware of the consequences attendant upon severe budget cuts. It may be useful to share this information with BUFA as well, so that we can use your arguments in pressing the faculty's case with the administration.

Also, be aware of what you are being asked to cut: chairs and directors rarely have any control over the largest portion of the budget assigned to their units (salaries of BUFA members), but some are being asked to cut up to 7% of a figure that includes those salaries. For some units, this amounts to cuts of up to 37% of the operating and part-time budgets (the only things chairs can control).

It is also appropriate to question the premise upon which the budget cutting exercise is based. Our best information from OCUFA is that, so far, the provincial government has made no announcement regarding one-time funding to universities.

Best of luck to you all.

Carol Merriam
President
Brock University Faculty Association