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Dr. Brett Fairbairn  
Provost and Vice-President Academic  
College Building  
107 Administration Place  
Saskatoon, SKS7N 5A2

Dear Dr. Fairbairn,

We are writing to express our concern at the disproportionate burden which appears to fall on those teaching as Sessional Lecturers at University of Saskatchewan, with respect to the targeted budget adjustments for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

The budget summary released by the university on May 20, 2009 came on the same day as the first round of postings for Sessional courses. During the subsequent rapid realignment of college resources, enormous pressures seem to have been placed on departments to cut sessional teaching appointments for Regular Session 2009-2010 as a way to achieve their budgetary adjustment targets. This seems to be particularly the case in the Colleges of Arts and Science and Education which employ the largest number of Sessional Lecturers. Mindful of the need to preserve institutional priorities and planning commitments, we nonetheless question the wisdom of cancelling courses and increasing class size as a solid long term strategy for a strong institution. That the decisions are being made on a last minute basis is evidenced by the fact that some courses posted on May 20, June 3 and June 17 have now been cancelled; others have been posted and the deadline for informing applicants of the status of their application has simply passed with no letters of offering sent and some departments have simply not posted courses. It appears there is still uncertainty about what courses and course sections will be available to students this fall and winter.

In the short term, cutting Sessional courses may contribute enormously to meeting budget demands imposed by central university administration and by some colleges. It will likely prove a false economy overall. Sessionals typically teach high enrollment courses at a fraction of the expense incurred by the use of Regular Faculty to provide this service. Cutting Sessional courses and increasing enrollment in remaining course sections will undermine the quality of the student experience and result in decreased enrollment which will undermine tuition revenue for the university. Yet the *Second Integrated Plan* (2008) and the Enrollment Plan (2004) articulate an ongoing need to increase undergraduate enrollment if the university is to flourish in the future.

We appreciate that many members of the university community are anxious about their professional futures at this time. We understand that, however it came about, addressing shortfall in the defined benefit pension plans is absolutely essential. Our concern is that determining spending cuts for years to come a in a matter of weeks on a department-by-department basis will result in cutting those expenditures to which departments are not already committed irrevocably, and not result in a more streamlined, focused and efficient institution.

Sincerely,

Susan Robertson  
President  
For the Executive Committee  
CUPE 3287