



TRENT UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSOCIATION

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Don O'Leary
Vice-President (Administration)
Trent University

Dear Mr. O'Leary,

Thank you for your response of February 26, 2010 regarding TUFA's questions related to the 2010-11 Operating Budget Projection update.

I have attached a series of follow up questions. We are also giving further consideration to some of your responses, so may provide additional questions in future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Wurtele". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Professor Susan Wurtele
President, Trent University Faculty Association

Enclosure.

TUFA Questions Following O'Leary Response of February 2010

1.0 Proposed Budget

1.1 a and c – The tuition increase is estimated at 4.2% in your figures. Our understanding is that the grant is going to increase by the same percentage. Why is the lack of an inflation allowance a concern, given that the grant is already increasing faster than inflation (around 2%)?

1.4. Please clarify whether additional one-time funding will be used for hiring additional instructional staff or whether other costs will take priority? Your current response says that additional funding will be used to make grants 'whole' – what does this mean?

1.6 Does your estimated increase of 8.5% taken into account known retirements of faculty and proposed non-replacement of faculty?

1.9. Please provide the precise conversion success experience ratios.

1.11. Our understanding is that there is a 'Fund committed for specific purposes' under the Internally Restricted Net Assets statement on last year's financial statements. We would like to know what the criteria for use of this fund are? What are the 'specific purposes' that it would be used for and how has it been used over the last three years (when it seems to be shrinking)?

Additional question: Please provide a breakdown of instructional salaries as a proportion of total salary costs and other expenses. Please ensure that salaries that are funded from specific, restricted sources (such as Nursing) are also broken down. Our aim is to provide our membership with a clear idea of the salary profile of TUFA that needs to be funded from current operating incomes. (Our preliminary findings for 2009-10 suggest the TUFA component of the Instructional Salaries is less than 37m in an operating budget of 85m.)

2.0 Strategic Planning

2.2. Please provide further information on who in Administration is involved in developing the budget forecasts that are presented to the Board of Governors (for example: Is it the Provost's Planning Group that has this responsibility? Does the PPG receive input from the Academic Planning and Budget Committee of Senate?). And, who is ultimately accountable for the budget forecasts that are presented to the Board of Governors?

2.2 In your response you note that the Board of Governors "requires a balanced budget." Has the Board always required a balanced budget (please provide specifics for recent years)? Did the Board consider running a deficit for 2010-11? Did the Board fully understand the impact on the Instructional Budget of requiring a

balanced budget? What information about the impact on the Instructional Budget did the Board have when making this decision?

3.0 Strategic Operating Budget

3.4 The financial statements of the University show increases in money flowing through, but a reduction in the operating budget proportionately. Is the operating budget being used to fund other projects rather than focusing on teaching and research? How much of the operating budget is used to offset costs for capital projects?

3.5 Your response to question 3.5 refers to “each project’s supporting business case.” The business cases for each new capital project presumably justify them as income generating – where are these available?