

Motion Withdrawn

RESOLUTION - From Professor Philip Rollinson

RESOLVED that future budget cuts be absorbed vertically first by the administration and staff as opposed to horizontally across the departments and faculty.

REASONING -

B. With the various cuts over the past few years, the faculty has already experienced a number of hiring freezes and partial freezes that have left us undermanned. (My department, English, is currently understaffed and cannot quite offer all the courses we need to for our majors while serving the undergraduate student body generally with core-curriculum courses and electives.)

B. Over that same period, the administrative staff has not been comparably reduced. So although the administration may not be bloated, as some claim, it would seem to have far more room for absorbing cuts and tightening its belt than the faculty.

C. The faculty actually delivers the products of the university first hand; research and teaching. Although the administration serves an important ancillary role in facilitating faculty research and teaching, none of them, in his or her official capacity, actually performs an experiment, studies archival material in the Bodleian Library, delivers a lecture or grades papers. Consequently, we can actually afford to lose some administrators more easily than faculty.

EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION -

Most administrators are tenured members of some department anyway, and can easily be shifted back to those departments to engage productively in the university's mission, teaching and research. The idea is simply to put some of them back in their departments and not fill those administrative vacancies. A case in point is Dr. Ina Har, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies in the College of Liberal Arts, who, it has been announced, is already headed back to her home department, English, this July 1. The cost savings are or can be huge in the following way. First, do not fill the position she is vacating. Her eleven-month salary will (we trust) be reduced to a nine-month salary like other faculty, and at the same time she will be teaching four courses during that nine-month period, and so helping the English Department to fulfill its mission. Not replacing retiring administrators is still another painless means of retrenching. And, of course, there is always reduction of secretarial staffs and clerks.

(The Budget Committee's report to the December meeting revealed that 20% of university salaries go to the administration and staff. The math becomes transparently simple. Were the university required to make another 1% budget cut, that could be easily accomplished by only a 5% cut in the administration and staff.)