



# THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS

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## OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION

**April 19, 2010**

The College of The Bahamas cannot agree to the financial demands of the Union of Tertiary Educators of The Bahamas (UTEB), demands which would amount to an average increase of \$11,500 per faculty member.

The faculty Union is demanding a reduction in workload and pay increases that range from 16% to over 19%, for a total salary increase of 17.5%. The union's \$11 million financial package would immediately add \$8 million to The College's already overstretched budget and over \$3 million annually thereafter. The College has already had to absorb a \$2.6 million (9.7%) cut in its subvention from the government in this current fiscal year and expects additional cuts of at least that amount in the upcoming financial year. The Union's demands would have the overall impact of inflating The College's budget by 20% - 23% over the contract period.

At a time when everyone in our College community is already challenged to find ways to do more with less, the faculty Union is demanding to do less for more. We cannot meet these demands and no responsible management would.

The Union has claimed that they do not know the state of The College's financial affairs and is demanding a "forensic audit". Yet, the faculty Union President sits on The College's Council which has approved audited financial statements up to 2008 and has never in her capacity as a Council member, questioned the veracity of any of these statements audited by reputable auditing firms and duly submitted to the government. The Union is suggesting wrongdoing, offering no evidence as none exists.

So far, all scheduled examinations for today have gone on without disruption. In New Providence, some 60% of faculty have carried out their normal invigilation duties compared to 100% in Grand Bahama. We expect invigilation of all examinations to continue without disruption.

Office of Communication

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